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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999*

Part II Political affairs

Section 2
Political affairs
(Programme 1 of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001)

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* The present document contains section 2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999. The complete proposed programme budget will subsequently be issued in final printed form as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/52/6/Rev.1).

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Part II
Political affairs

Section 2
Political affairs
(Programme 1 of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001)

Overview

2.1 The Department of Political Affairs was established by the Secretary-General in March 1992 in order to enhance the Organization's capacity to play its role in the prevention, control and resolution of conflicts. The Department has subsequently passed through several phases of restructuring. Its strength initially grew from 279 authorized posts in the regular budget for the biennium 1992-1993 (excluding peaceful uses of outer space) to 308 in 1994-1995. For the biennium 1996-1997, 281 posts were approved, the reduction in comparison with the biennium 1994-1995 being due in part to the termination of activities related to apartheid. A further reduction by 17 posts to 264 posts is proposed for the biennium 1998-1999. The Department has five principal functions.

2.2 The first function is to provide advice and support to the Secretary-General in the discharge of his global responsibilities related to the prevention, control and resolution of conflicts, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and under the mandates given to him by the General Assembly and the Security Council. This involves the collection of information about actual or potential disputes and conflicts, analysis of the information to identify situations in which the United Nations could usefully take action, advice to the Secretary-General on what form the action should take, preparation of the necessary reports to the relevant intergovernmental bodies and implementation of the approved policy or monitoring its implementation if the action required falls within the area of competence of another United Nations body.

2.3 The second function is to provide the Secretary-General with advice and support in the political aspects of his relations with Member States and other intergovernmental organizations, especially regional organizations with which the United Nations cooperates, including under Chapter VIII of the Charter, through the drafting of correspondence, the provision of briefing materials for his meetings with their representatives and recording of such meetings.

2.4 Responsibility for these first two functions is entrusted to the Department's regional divisions. It is proposed that the existing structure of six regional divisions be reduced to four divisions, to consist of two for Africa, one for Asia resulting from the merger of the East Asia and the Pacific and West Asia Divisions and one for the Americas and Europe resulting from the merger of the Americas and Europe Divisions. The mergers would streamline the divisions to improve efficiency and respond to the request of the General Assembly in its resolution 50/214 of 23 December 1995, to review the Department's grade structure. Another change relates to the establishment of a liaison office at Addis Ababa to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and the regional organizations engaged in the prevention, control and resolution of conflicts in Africa.

2.5 The Department's third function is to provide the Secretary-General with advice and support in relation to his responsibilities in the field of arms limitation and disarmament and to provide secretariat services to the Conference on Disarmament, the Disarmament Commission and the First Committee of the General Assembly. This function is carried out by the Centre for Disarmament Affairs, whose Director reports directly to the Under-Secretary-General.

2.6 The fourth function is to provide the Secretary-General with advice and support on electoral assistance matters and to ensure appropriate consideration of and response to Member States' requests for such assistance. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/137 of 17 December 1991, the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Political Affairs has been designated as the United Nations Focal Point for United Nations Electoral Assistance activities. He has hitherto been assisted by the Electoral Assistance Division, whose Director reports directly to him.

2.7 The fifth function is the provision of secretariat services to the General Assembly, the Security Council and a number of related intergovernmental bodies, and to the Trusteeship Council if it should meet. This function is entrusted to two divisions, one for the General Assembly and various of its subsidiary organs, especially those dealing with decolonization and the question of Palestine, and the Trusteeship Council, and the other for the Security Council and its subsidiary organs.

2.8 The legislative authority for the programmes covered by this section of the budget derives from the Charter of the United Nations, the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 (A/51/6/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Corr.1) and relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Security Council, including Assembly resolutions 47/120 A of 18 December 1992 and 47/120 B of 20 September 1993. The activities carried out under this section fall under the various subprogrammes of programme 1, Political affairs, namely, 1.1, Prevention, control and resolution of conflict, 1.2, Assistance and support to the Secretary-General in the political aspects of his relations with Member States, 1.3, Electoral assistance, 1.4, Security Council affairs, 1.5, General Assembly affairs, 1.6, Decolonization and 1.7, Question of Palestine, and programme 26, Disarmament, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

2.9 The Secretary-General is convinced that preventive diplomacy and peacemaking (as defined in "An Agenda for Peace" (A/47/277-S/24111), i.e. the use of peaceful means to bring hostile parties to agreement) are the most cost-effective ways by which the Organization can contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security and thus forestall the suffering and destruction that inevitably occur when disputes degenerate into armed conflict. The coming biennium will again provide a critical test of the Organization's ability to respond to that challenge.

2.10 The proposals under this section make adjustments for the following factors: the request of the General Assembly in its resolution 50/214 to the Secretary-General that he review the Department's grade structure as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in paragraph II.4 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 (A/50/7); the need to strengthen coordination between the United Nations and the regional organizations with which it cooperates most closely in matters of peace and security; and the particularly pressing demands for the Organization to help prevent, control and resolve conflicts in Africa.

2.11 Accordingly, it is proposed to abolish 17 posts (9 in the Professional category and above and 8 General Service) from the Department's approved 1996-1997 staffing table. Reductions are also proposed under non-staff resources.

2.12 The estimated percentage distribution of resources in 1998-1999 under section 2 of the budget would be as follows:

	Regular budget	*Extra-budgetary*
	(percentage)	
A. Policy-making organs		
1. General Assembly	0.7	—
2. Security Council	0.1	—
3. Trusteeship Council	—	—
4. Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	0.8	—
5. Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People	0.1	—
6. Conference on Disarmament	0.1	—
Subtotal A	**1.8**	**—**
B. Executive direction and management	7.5	—
C. Programme of work		
1. Political affairs		
(a) Prevention, control and resolution of conflicts and assistance and support to the Secretary-General in the political aspects of his relations with Member States	27.9	0.6
(b) Electoral assistance	4.4	15.0
(c) Security Council affairs	14.5	—
(d) General Assembly affairs	5.6	—
(e) Decolonization	2.4	—
(f) Question of Palestine	7.4	—
Subtotal C.1	62.2	15.6
2. Disarmament	21.0	84.4
Subtotal C	**83.2**	**100.0**
D. International Commission of Inquiry in Burundi	—	—
E. Programme support	7.5	—
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

Table 2.1 **Summary of requirements by component**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Component	1994-1995 expenditures	1996-1997 appropriations	Resource growth		Total before recosting	Recosting	1998-1999 estimates
			Amount	Percentage			
A. Policy-making organs	986.9	1 405.7	(406.6)	(28.9)	999.1	56.9	1 056.0
B. Executive direction and management	4 181.6	4 028.4	347.0	8.6	4 375.4	271.5	4 646.9
C. Programme of work							
1. Political affairs	36 565.9	37 306.3	(1 669.5)	(4.5)	35 636.8	2 290.1	37 926.9
2. Disarmament	12 596.8	12 609.8	(380.3)	(3.0)	12 229.5	541.5	12 771.0
Subtotal	**49 162.7**	**49 916.1**	**(2 049.8)**	**(4.1)**	**47 866.3**	**2 831.6**	**50 697.9**
D. International Commission against Apartheid and other bodies	978.2	1 137.4	(1 137.4)	(100.0)	—	—	—
E. Programme support	5 135.7	3 192.1	1 108.1	34.7	4 300.2	264.4	4 564.6
Total	**60 445.1**	**59 679.7[a]**	**(2 138.7)**	**(3.5)**	**57 541.0**	**3 424.4**	**60 965.4**

[a] Includes $743,300 transferred from section 1.

(2) *Extrabudgetary resources*

1994-1995 expenditures	1996-1997 estimates	Source of funds	1998-1999 estimates
		(a) Services in support of:	
—	—	(i) Other United Nations organizations	—
—	142.3	(ii) Extrabudgetary programmes	147.5
—	**142.3**	**Total (a)**	**147.5**
		(b) Substantive activities	
189.4	339.9	Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme	391.0
260.7	416.4	Trust Fund for Public Awareness on Disarmament Issues	313.0
159.2	266.6	Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament Activities	309.0
—	—	Trust Fund for Interest on the Contribution to the United Nations Special Account	—
4 277.5	654.6	United Nations Trust Fund for Electoral Observation	756.0
—	901.6	Trust Fund for the Commission of Inquiry in Burundi	—
—	429.6	Trust Fund for the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa	561.0
—	27.0	Trust Fund in support of special missions and other activities related to preventive diplomacy and peacemaking	31.8
4 886.8	**3 035.7**	**Total (b)**	**2 361.8**

	1994-1995 expenditures	1996-1997 estimates	Source of funds	1998-1999 estimates
			(c) Operational projects	
	125.0	109.0	Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa	125.8
	72.8	29.5	Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean	—
	13.5	303.2	Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific	349.0
	2 221.1	2 060.8	Trust Fund for the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research	2 060.8
Total	**2 432.4**	**2 502.5**		**2 535.6**
Total (a) and (b)	**7 319.2**	**5 680.5**		**5 044.9**
Total (1) and (2)	**67 764.3**	**65 360.2**		**66 010.3**

Table 2.2 Summary by object of expenditure

(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Object of expenditure	1994-1995 expenditures	1996-1997 appropriations	Resource growth		Total before recosting	Recosting	1998-1999 estimates
			Amount	Percentage			
Posts	47 853.8	48 212.3	(900.0)	(1.8)	47 312.3	2 842.2	50 154.5
Other staff costs	2 809.1	2 296.3	(730.4)	(31.8)	1 565.9	91.7	1 657.6
Consultants and experts	1 490.2	1 433.8	67.3	4.6	1 501.1	89.9	1 591.0
Travel	2 421.8	2 624.6	216.1	8.2	2 840.7	168.0	3 008.7
Contractual services	267.5	973.5	(344.3)	(35.3)	629.2	37.1	666.3
General operating expenses	2 094.1	1 509.8	(105.6)	(6.9)	1 404.2	84.1	1 488.3
Hospitality	68.2	80.9	4.9	6.0	85.8	5.1	90.9
Supplies and materials	265.4	181.7	8.5	4.6	190.2	11.5	201.7
Furniture and equipment	1 453.6	923.1	(287.5)	(31.1)	635.6	38.0	673.6
Grants and contributions	1 721.4	1 443.7	(67.7)	(4.6)	1 376.0	56.8	1 432.8
Total	**60 445.1**	**59 679.7**	**(2 138.7)**	**(3.5)**	**57 541.0**	**3 424.4**	**60 965.4**

(2) *Extrabudgetary resources*

1994-1995 expenditures	1996-1997 estimates	Object of expenditure	1998-1999 estimates
177.1	195.2	Posts	261.0
2 777.5	1 831.5	Other staff costs	1 869.1
12.3	1 092.2	Consultants and experts	645.6
774.0	2 143.6	Travel	1 814.3
2 847.0	42.4	Contractual services	47.1
243.0	180.6	General operating expenses	185.8
0.0	60.0	Supplies and materials	65.0
190.8	8.5	Furniture and equipment	10.0
297.5	126.5	Grants and contributions	147.0
7 319.2	**5 680.5**	**Total**	**5 044.9**
67 764.3	**65 360.2**	**Total (1) and (2)**	**66 010.3**

Table 2.3 Post requirements[a]

Organizational unit: Department of Political Affairs

	Established posts		Temporary posts					
	Regular budget		Regular budget		Extrabudgetary resources		Total	
	1996-1997	1998-1999	1996-1997	1998-1999	1996-1997	1998-1999	1996-1997	1998-1999
Professional category and above								
USG	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
ASG	2	2	—	—	—	—	2	2
D-2	10	8	—	—	—	—	10	8
D-1	17	17	1	1	—	—	18	18
P-5	38	34	3	1	—	—	41	35
P-4/3	68	69	2	—	—	—	70	69
P-2/1	13	13	—	—	—	—	13	13
Total	**149**	**144**	**6**	**2**	**—**	**—**	**155**	**146**
General Service category								
Principal level	12	11	—	—	—	—	12	11
Other levels	106	104	8	2	2	2	116	108
Total	**118**	**115**	**8**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**128**	**119**
Other categories								
Local level	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total	**—**	**1**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**1**
Grand total	**267**	**260**	**14**	**4**	**2**	**2**	**283**	**266**

[a] In addition, two gratis personnel have been contributed for the biennium 1996-1997. It is anticipated that in the biennium 1998-1999, the same number of gratis personnel will be contributed.

A. Policy-making organs

Overview

2.13 Provision is made under this subsection for requirements relating to policy-making organs, the servicing of which is the responsibility of the Department of Political Affairs and which are deemed to require specific provisions.

Table 2.4 **Summary of requirements by programme**
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Programme	*1994-1995 expenditures*	*1996-1997 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*1998-1999 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
1. General Assembly	338.3	743.3	(330.4)	(44.4)	412.9	24.4	437.3
2. Security Council	55.5	304.5	(244.5)	(80.2)	60.0	3.6	63.6
3. Trusteeship Council	1.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	153.0	269.2	168.3	62.5	437.5	26.0	463.5
5. Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People	45.3	51.0	—	—	51.0	3.0	54.0
6. Conference on Disarmament	23.5	37.7	—	—	37.7	(0.1)	37.6
7. Discontinued programmes							
(a) Special Committee against Apartheid	122.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Promotion of the International Campaign against Apartheid	121.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) African National Congress of South Africa	65.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
(d) Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania	61.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	**986.9**	**1 405.7**	**(406.6)**	**(28.9)**	**999.1**	**56.9**	**1 056.0**

Table 2.5 **Summary by object of expenditure**
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	*1994-1995 expenditures*	*1996-1997 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*1998-1999 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Other staff costs	256.3	270.0	44.5	16.4	314.5	18.7	333.2
Travel	323.2	313.9	177.1	56.4	491.0	26.8	517.8
Contractual services	140.4	773.6	(623.5)	(80.5)	150.1	8.8	158.9
General operating expenses	7.8	30.7	—	—	30.7	1.6	32.3
Hospitality	11.3	13.0	(2.2)	(16.9)	10.8	0.7	11.5
Supplies and materials	—	4.5	(2.5)	(55.5)	2.0	0.3	2.3
Grants and contributions	247.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	**986.9**	**1 405.7**	**(406.6)**	**(28.9)**	**999.1**	**56.9**	**1 056.0**

1. General Assembly

Table 2.6 **Summary by object of expenditure**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	1994-1995 expenditures	1996-1997 appropriations	Resource growth		Total before recosting	Recosting	1998-1999 estimates
			Amount	Percentage			
Other staff costs	246.1	263.7	50.8	19.2	314.5	18.7	333.2
Contractual services	84.2	469.1	(379.0)	(80.7)	90.1	5.2	95.3
Hospitality	8.0	10.5	(2.2)	(20.9)	8.3	0.5	8.8
Total	**338.3**	**743.3**	**(330.4)**	**(44.4)**	**412.9**	**24.4**	**437.3**

2.14 Provision is made under this heading for certain estimated direct costs of the fifty-third and fifty-fourth sessions of the General Assembly. The provisions previously reflected under section 1, Overall policy-making, direction and coordination, are proposed for redeployment to this section. Various subsidiary organs and working groups of the Assembly, including the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters Related to the Security Council, the Informal Open-ended Working Group on An Agenda for Peace and its four subgroups, the Open-ended High-level Working Group of the General Assembly on the Strengthening of the United Nations and the High-level Open-ended Working Group on the Financial Situation of the United Nations are provided with technical and substantive services by the Department of Political Affairs, which are described under section C below. Such bodies, of either fixed or indeterminate duration, meet as required.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Other staff costs

2.15 In recent years, the pattern of General Assembly meetings has changed dramatically. While most of its meetings are held from September to December, the Assembly now meets with increasing frequency during the rest of the year. During its fiftieth session, the General Assembly held 22 per cent of its meetings from January to September 1995. This trend is expected to increase in coming years, thus generating entirely new requirements for the Secretariat. This is further borne out by the need for the services of two secretaries by Presidents of the General Assembly and by the fact that, during the regular session of the General Assembly from September to December, a minimum of eight temporary assistance staff in the General Service category are required. The estimates of $314,500 under this heading redeployed from section 1 would therefore provide for temporary assistance ($289,800) and overtime ($24,700).

Contractual services

2.16 Provision of $90,100 relates to the printing costs of stationery, invitation and business cards for the Office of the President. External printing needs for supplements in six languages, meetings records, annexes and resolutions, pre-session and in-session documentation of the General Assembly and its Main Committees and provisional meeting records are also provided for under this heading. The use of computer work stations and text-processing software and desktop publishing capacity allows internal reproduction of some of the General Assembly documentation, hence the negative growth of $379,000.

Hospitality

2.17 A provision of $8,300 is proposed for hospitality offered by the President of the General Assembly at functions hosted during its sessions, which reflects a reduction of $2,200.

2. Security Council

Table 2.7 **Summary by object of expenditure**
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	1994-1995 expenditures	1996-1997 appropriations	Resource growth		Total before recosting	Recosting	1998-1999 estimates
			Amount	Percentage			
Contractual services	55.5	304.5	(244.5)	(80.2)	60.0	3.6	63.6
Total	**55.5**	**304.5**	**(244.5)**	**(80.2)**	**60.0**	**3.6**	**63.6**

2.18 The Security Council, one of the principal organs of the United Nations, was established under Article 7 of the Charter of the United Nations and is charged with the primary responsibility for maintenance of world peace and international security. As specified in Article 28 of the Charter, the Council is so organized as to be able to function continuously. The Council is authorized, under Article 29 of the Charter, to establish such subsidiary organs as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions. There are currently nine such organs: the Security Council Committee of Experts, the Security Council Committee on the Admission of New Members, the Security Council Committee on Council Meetings away from Headquarters, the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) concerning the situation between Iraq and Kuwait, including activities in support of the oil for food operation under resolution 986 (1995), the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 748 (1992) concerning the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 864 (1993) concerning Angola, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 918 (1994) concerning Rwanda and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 985 (1995) concerning Liberia. Such bodies, of either fixed or indeterminate duration, meet as required.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Contractual services

2.19 Resources of $60,000 provided for external printing requirements for the issuance of the *Official Records of the Security Council* and reports of its subsidiary organs in the six official languages of the United Nations reflect a reduction of $244,500 as a result of greater use of computer work stations and text-processing software, thereby allowing internal reproduction of the reports of the Security Council and those of its subsidiary organs.

3. Trusteeship Council

Table 2.8 **Summary by object of expenditure**
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	1994-1995 expenditures	1996-1997 appropriations	Resource growth		Total before recosting	Recosting	1998-1999 estimates
			Amount	Percentage			
Travel	0.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Contractual services	0.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	**1.1**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**

2.20 The Trusteeship Council, composed of five Member States, is a principal organ of the United Nations established under Article 7 of the Charter of the United Nations. Its function is to assist the General Assembly and the Security Council in carrying out their responsibilities with respect to the international trusteeship system. On 2 November 1994, the Security Council, by its resolution 956 (1994), determined that the applicability of the trusteeship agreement had terminated with respect to the last Trust Territory, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (Palau). Consequently, resources are not earmarked for the Council.

2.21 In accordance with its amended rules of procedure, the Trusteeship Council shall meet as and where occasion may require, by decision of the Trusteeship Council, or by decision of its President, or at the request of a majority of its members, or at the request of the General Assembly, or at the request of the Security Council acting in pursuance of the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. If the need arises, in the future, for the Trusteeship Council to meet, the Department of Political Affairs would provide it with the required substantive servicing. It is anticipated at the present stage that this could be met within the level of resources to be made available for the Department.

4. Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Table 2.9 **Summary by object of expenditure**
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	*1994-1995 expenditures*	*1996-1997 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*1998-1999 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Other staff costs	10.2	6.3	(6.3)	(100.0)	—	—	—
Travel	133.6	225.2	177.1	78.6	402.3	23.9	426.2
General operating expenses	7.7	30.7	—	—	30.7	1.6	32.3
Hospitality	1.5	2.5	—	—	2.5	0.2	2.7
Supplies and materials	—	4.5	(2.5)	(55.5)	2.0	0.3	2.3
Total	**153.0**	**269.2**	**168.3**	**62.5**	**437.5**	**26.0**	**463.5**

2.22 The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, composed of 24 Member States, is the principal subsidiary organ of the General Assembly charged with examining the application of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples contained in Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960. It has one subcommittee and a working group.

2.23 The Committee's mandate includes:

(a) Seeking suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and formulating specific proposals to that end;

(b) Making concrete suggestions to the Security Council with regard to developments in colonial Territories that are likely to threaten international peace and security;

(c) Examining the compliance of Member States with resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions;

(d) Studying the conditions in the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the dispatch of visiting missions, and reporting thereon to the General Assembly;

(e) Enlisting worldwide support for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration;

(f) Reviewing the list of Territories to which the Declaration applies and making specific proposals to the General Assembly to that end.

2.24 In pursuance of its mandate the Special Committee may hold meetings, including some away from Headquarters, to examine the implementation of the Declaration and may send visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories. It may also hold appropriate consultations and contacts with Governments, specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Its members may participate in conferences, seminars and other special meetings dealing with decolonization sponsored by non-governmental organizations and the United Nations bodies concerned. In accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions, the Special Committee promotes an international campaign for the dissemination of information on decolonization and publicity for the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization and reports thereon to the Assembly.

2.25 There are currently 17 Territories on the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories. The programme of work of the Special Committee is decided upon on an annual basis, taking into account relevant decisions of the General Assembly. On the basis of the scope of the Special Committee's responsibilities and its programme of work approved by the Assembly for 1997, it is anticipated that the Committee may carry out the following activities during the biennium 1998-1999:

(a) Sending a maximum of three visiting missions to the Territories;

(b) Dispatching missions of representation to conferences and holding consultations and contacts on the question of decolonization with Governments, United Nations bodies, in particular specialized agencies, and international institutions associated with the United Nations (several missions of consultation each year); the Economic and Social Council during regular sessions of the Council; CARICOM; and the South Pacific Forum and meetings of non-aligned countries;

(c) Participating each year in conferences, seminars and other special events dealing with decolonization sponsored by non-governmental organizations and the United Nations bodies concerned, as well as attendance at regional seminars to be held in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions, within the context of the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;

(d) Making arrangements, in consultation with the Administering Powers and the regional organizations concerned, for the appearance before the Committee of representatives from Non-Self-Governing Territories and taking into account the views expressed by such representatives at the regional seminars organized by the Committee since 1990, as well as recommendations contained in the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the Committee will continue to consider how to intensify and improve the participation of such representatives in the work of the Committee within available resources.

2.26 Responsibility for the substantive servicing and support of the Special Committee, its subsidiary bodies and its visiting and other missions, as required, rests with the Department of Political Affairs. Requirements in that respect are reflected under section C.1 (e) below.

2.27 Without prejudice to the decisions to be taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-third and fifty-fourth sessions on the programme of work of the Special Committee for 1998 and 1999, the estimates are based on the activities approved for the year 1997.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Other staff costs

2.28 The resources of $6,300 related to the cost of the services of an interpreter during missions of the Committee are not foreseen in the biennium 1998-1999 based on recent experience. Accordingly, the total resources under this heading could be surrendered.

Travel

2.29 Estimated resources of $402,300 would cover the cost of travel of representatives ($205,000) to undertake the activities outlined in paragraph 2.25, as well as attendance at two regional seminars (one per year) to be held in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions within the context of the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism; travel of representatives of national bodies and others ($38,500) to participate in its work and for attendance at the regional seminars; and travel of staff ($158,800) to assist the Committee in carrying out the activities outlined in paragraph 2.25 and with the

two regional seminars. The resource growth of $177,100 represents the partial restoration of provisions that had existed in the initial 1996-1997 appropriations.

General operating expenses

2.30 Provision of $30,700 is proposed for the rental of premises ($4,800), rental of furniture and equipment ($12,800), communications ($4,200) and miscellaneous services ($8,900). These are required during the Committee's missions and the proposed regional seminars referred to in paragraph 2.25.

Hospitality

2.31 The provision of $2,500 would cover hospitality expenditures of the Committee during missions and the regional seminars.

Supplies and materials

2.32 The provision of $2,000 would cover various supply requirements arising during missions of the Committee and the regional seminars.

5. Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

Table 2.10 **Summary by object of expenditure**
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	*1994-1995 expenditures*	*1996-1997 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*1998-1999 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Travel	45.3	51.0	—	—	51.0	3.0	54.0
Total	**45.3**	**51.0**	**—**	**—**	**51.0**	**3.0**	**54.0**

2.33 The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 3376 (XXX) of 10 November 1975. The Committee meets throughout the year as required and submits an annual report to the General Assembly. In discharging its mandate to exert all efforts to promote the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, the Committee participates in relevant international meetings and conferences, sends delegations on missions and invites on special occasions prominent personalities or experts. The Committee's membership was increased from 20 to 23 by the Assembly at its thirty-first session. Its mandate, which has been expanded over the years, was reaffirmed by the Assembly in its resolution 51/23 of 4 December 1996. It is envisaged that the Committee will remain in existence until a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine has been achieved.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Travel

2.34 The proposed estimate ($51,000) would cover the anticipated travel costs of representatives of the Committee to international conferences and meetings that the Committee considers appropriate to attend, as well as the sending of delegations on other missions and outreach efforts the Committee may undertake in the discharge of its mandate. Provision is also made for the travel of prominent personalities, experts and others whom the Committee decides to invite to participate in special events relating to the question of Palestine or for consultations with the Committee whenever it is considered appropriate.

6. Conference on Disarmament

Table 2.11 **Summary by object of expenditure**
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	*1994-1995 expenditures*	*1996-1997 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*1998-1999 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Travel	23.5	37.7	—	—	37.7	(0.1)	37.6
Total	**23.5**	**37.7**	**—**	**—**	**37.7**	**(0.1)**	**37.6**

2.35 The Conference on Disarmament is open to the 5 nuclear-weapon States and 56 other States and is based at Geneva. In addition, 37 non-member States of the Conference are regularly invited to participate in its work, as well as in that of its subsidiary bodies. The Conference divides its annual session into three parts and continues its negotiations on priority issues during its inter-sessional periods. Meetings thus take place during seven to nine months each year.

2.36 Pursuant to paragraph 120 (c) of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, following consultations with the Conference on Disarmament, appoints the Secretary-General of the Conference, who also acts as his Personal Representative, to assist the Conference and its President in organizing the Conference. As requested by the Assembly in its resolution 34/83 L of 11 December 1979, the Secretary-General provides the staff, as well as the assistance and services needed by the Conference on Disarmament and any subsidiary bodies that it might establish, in accordance with the arrangements contained in its rules of procedure. The secretariat of the Conference consists of officers of the Geneva Branch of the Centre for Disarmament Affairs of the Department of Political Affairs.

2.37 In 1992, the Conference on Disarmament successfully concluded the negotiations of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, as well as the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in 1996, with the participation of all five nuclear-weapon States and other militarily significant States. The Conference is currently engaged in a comprehensive review of its agenda in order to make it conform to the new international political and security environment. Efforts are under way to start negotiations on a multilateral convention on the prohibition of the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons purposes. It is also exploring ways and means to address the issue of nuclear disarmament. The Conference is expected to continue its efforts in the fields of negative security assurances and the promotion of transparency in armaments, including a ban on landmines.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Travel

2.38 The resources requested ($37,700) relate to travel and subsistence costs for the Secretary-General of the Conference and the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General and staff of the Centre for Disarmament Affairs based at Geneva to attend consultative meetings in New York with respect to the activities of the Conference on Disarmament.

B. Executive direction and management

Overview

2.39 Provision is made under this section for requirements relating to the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Political Affairs and the offices of the two Assistant Secretaries-General.

Table 2.12 **Summary of requirements by programme**
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Programme	*1994-1995 expenditures*	*1996-1997 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*1998-1999 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Executive direction and management	4 181.6	4 028.4	347.0	8.6	4 375.4	271.5	4 646.9
Total	**4 181.6**	**4 028.4**	**347.0**	**8.6**	**4 375.4**	**271.5**	**4 646.9**

Table 2.13 **Summary by object of expenditure**
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	*1994-1995 expenditures*	*1996-1997 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*1998-1999 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Posts	3 343.3	3 679.9	376.0	10.2	4 055.9	252.0	4 307.9
Other staff costs	193.8	36.9	78.1	211.6	115.0	7.1	122.1
Consultants and experts	171.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Travel	222.1	202.0	—	—	202.0	12.4	214.4
Contractual services	0.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
General operating expenses	249.8	108.2	(108.2)	(100.0)	—	—	—
Hospitality	0.3	1.4	1.1	78.5	2.5	—	2.5
Total	**4 181.6**	**4 028.4**	**347.0**	**8.6**	**4 375.4**	**271.5**	**4 646.9**

Table 2.14 **Post requirements**

Programme: Executive direction and management

	Established posts		*Temporary posts*					
	Regular budget		*Regular budget*		*Extrabudgetary resources*		*Total*	
	1996-1997	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*
Professional category and above								
USG	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
ASG	2	2	—	—	—	—	2	2
D-1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
P-5	2	3	—	—	—	—	2	3
P-4/3	4	4	—	—	—	—	4	4
Total	**10**	**11**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**10**	**11**
General Service category								
Other levels	11	11	—	—	—	—	11	11
Total	**11**	**11**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**11**	**11**
Grand total	**21**	**22**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**21**	**22**

2.40 The Office of the Under-Secretary-General provides overall policy direction, supervision and management of the Department. In addition to performing the functions of head of department, the Under-Secretary-General provides the Secretary-General with advice and support on political matters; provides political guidance and instructions to special envoys and special representatives of the Secretary-General; directs and manages, on behalf of the Secretary-General, good offices, fact-finding and other special political missions; undertakes, on behalf of the Secretary-General, consultations and negotiations relating to the peaceful settlement of disputes; advises the Secretary-General on matters relating to disarmament and arms limitation; and acts as the United Nations Focal Point for Electoral Assistance Activities.

2.41 In the exercise of his responsibilities, the Under-Secretary-General is assisted by two Assistant Secretaries-General and two Directors. One of the Assistant Secretaries-General supervises the General Assembly Affairs Division, which includes the Division for Palestinian Rights; and two of the regional divisions (the Americas and Europe and the Asia Divisions). The other Assistant Secretary-General supervises the Security Council Affairs Division and the other two regional divisions (Africa I and Africa II Divisions). The Centre for Disarmament Affairs and the Electoral Assistance Division are supervised by Directors reporting directly to the Under-Secretary-General.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Posts

2.42 The estimated requirements of $4,055,900 would provide for the staffing structure of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General, consisting of one USG, one D-1, one P-5, one P-4, one P-3 and five General Service (Other level) posts; and for each of the two offices of the Assistant Secretaries-General one ASG, one P-5, one P-3 and three General Service (Other level) posts. The resource growth of $376,000 reflects the combined effect of the application of the standardized vacancy rates and the inward redeployment of a P-5.

2.43 Following its further streamlining and in order to strengthen its capacity to coordinate, both within the Department and with other departments, especially the Departments of Humanitarian Affairs and Peacekeeping Operations, it is proposed to redeploy to the Office of the Under-Secretary-General one P-5 post presently assigned to subprogrammes 1 and 2.

Other staff costs

2.44 The requirements of $115,000 relating to general temporary assistance ($40,300) and overtime ($74,700), reflecting increases of $28,400 and $49,700, respectively, would cover the cost of temporary replacement of General Service staff on maternity leave and extended sick leave and for supplementary staffing during periods of peak workload for the Offices of the Under-Secretary-General and the two Assistant Secretaries-General. These increased provisions would better reflect past expenditure experience.

Travel

2.45 The estimated requirements of $202,000 relate to travel in connection with the Department's work in the prevention, control and resolution of conflicts. Approximately eight trips per year are envisaged for purposes of negotiations, participation in fact-finding and other missions, accompanying special representatives and special envoys of the Secretary-General, attendance at meetings of regional organizations and participation in conferences and seminars.

General operating expenses

2.46 The negative growth of $108,200 relates to communications requirements redeployed to the Executive Office of the Department (see section E).

Hospitality

2.47 Provision of $2,500, reflecting resource growth of $1,100, would provide for hospitality requirements.

C. Programme of work

Overview

2.48 The activities expected to be implemented in 1998-1999 under this subsection are in response to the objectives set out in programmes 1, Political affairs, and 26, Disarmament, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 (A/51/6/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Corr.1) and relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Security Council, including Assembly resolutions 47/120 A and B. Against that background and taking into account several factors influencing the formulation of the estimates, in particular the request of the General Assembly in its resolution 50/214 to review the Department's grade structure, the need to strengthen coordination between the United Nations and the regional organizations with which it cooperates most closely in matters of peace and security, and the particularly pressing demands for the Organization to help prevent, control and resolve conflicts in Africa, the work programme can be summarized as follows:

(a) Assistance to the Security Council and the Secretary-General in carrying out activities mandated by the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Charter in the areas of preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peacekeeping and post-conflict peace-building;

(b) Monitoring, analysing and assessing political developments throughout the world;

(c) Identification of potential or actual conflicts that threaten international peace and security and in whose control and resolution the United Nations could play a useful role, and formulation of recommendations thereon;

(d) Providing the Secretary-General with analysis, assessment and advice on all disarmament matters and carrying out the responsibilities entrusted to the Secretariat in the field of arms limitation and disarmament;

(e) Providing the Secretary-General with support in the political aspects of his relations with Member States;

(f) Provision of secretariat services to the General Assembly, the Security Council and their subsidiary organs.

2.49 The estimated percentage distribution of resources under this subsection in 1998-1999 would be as reflected below:

	Regular budget	*Extra-budgetary*
	(percentage)	
1. Political affairs		
(a) Prevention control and resolution of conflicts, and assistance and support to the Secretary-General in the political aspects of his relations with Member States	33.5	0.6
(b) Electoral assistance	5.3	15.0
(c) Security Council affairs	17.4	—
(d) General Assembly affairs	6.8	—
(e) Decolonization	2.8	—
(f) Question of Palestine	9.0	—
Subtotal 1	**74.8**	**15.6**
2. Disarmament	25.2	84.4
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

Table 2.15 **Summary of requirements by programme**
(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Programme	*1994-1995 expenditures*	*1996-1997 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*1998-1999 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
1. Political affairs							
(a) Prevention, control and resolution of conflicts, and assistance and support to the Secretary-General in the political aspects of his relations with Member States	14 676.2	17 815.2	(1 926.4)	(10.8)	15 888.8	1 032.0	16 920.8
(b) Electoral assistance	1 780.2	2 121.1	417.0	19.6	2 538.1	162.4	2 700.5
(c) Security Council affairs	7 760.3	9 078.8	(615.8)	(6.7)	8 463.0	541.8	9 004.8
(d) General Assembly affairs	3 073.6	2 719.3	655.1	24.0	3 374.4	215.2	3 589.6
(e) Decolonization	2 189.5	1 249.1	(210.4)	(16.8)	1 038.7	66.2	1 104.9
(f) Question of Palestine	3 781.6	4 322.8	11.0	0.2	4 333.8	272.5	4 606.3
Subtotal 1	**33 261.4**	**37 306.3**	**(1 669.5)**	**(4.5)**	**35 636.8**	**2 290.1**	**37 926.9**
2. Disarmament	12 596.8	12 609.8	(380.3)	(3.0)	12 229.5	541.5	12 771.0
3. Discontinued programmes	3 304.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	**49 162.7**	**49 916.1**	**(2 049.8)**	**(4.1)**	**47 866.3**	**2 831.6**	**50 697.9**

(2) *Extrabudgetary resources*

	1994-1995 expenditures	*1996-1997 estimates*	*Source of funds*	*1998-1999 estimates*
			(a) Services in support of:	
	—	—	(i) Other United Nations organizations	—
	—	142.3	(ii) Extrabudgetary programmes	147.5
Total (a)	**—**	**142.3**		**147.5**
			(b) Substantive activities	
			Trust Fund for the United Nations	
	189.4	339.9	Disarmament Information Programme	391.0
			Trust Fund for Public Awareness on	
	260.7	416.4	Disarmament Issues	313.0
			Trust Fund for Global and Regional	
	159.2	266.6	Disarmament Activities	309.0
			Trust Fund for Interest on the Contribution	
	—	—	to the United Nations Special Account	—
			United Nations Trust Fund for Electoral	
	4 277.5	654.6	Observation	756.0
			Trust Fund for the United Nations Standing	
	—		Advisory Committee on Security Questions	
	—	429.6	in Central Africa	561.0
			Trust Fund in support of special missions	
			and other activities related to preventive	
	—	27.0	diplomacy and peacemaking	31.8
Total (b)	**4 886.8**	**2 134.1**		**2 361.8**
			(c) Operational projects	
			Trust Fund for the United Nations	
			Regional Centre for Peace and	
	125.0	109.0	Disarmament in Africa	125.8
			Trust Fund for the United Nations	
			Regional Centre for Peace,	
			Disarmament and Development in	
	72.8	29.5	Latin America and the Caribbean	—
			Trust Fund for the United Nations	
			Regional Centre for Peace and	
	13.5	303.2	Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific	349.0
			Trust Fund for the United Nations	
	2 221.1	2 060.8	Institute for Disarmament Research	2 060.8
Total (c)	**2 432.4**	**2 502.5**		**2 535.6**
Total (a), (b) and (c)	**7 319.2**	**4 778.9**		**5 044.9**
Total (1) and (2)	**56 481.9**	**54 695.0**		**55 742.8**

Table 2.16 Summary by object of expenditure

(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Object of expenditure	*1994-1995 expenditures*	*1996-1997 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*1998-1999 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Posts	41 517.9	42 453.0	(1 428.7)	(3.3)	41 024.3	2 449.4	43 473.7
Other staff costs	1 702.4	1 259.6	(257.9)	(20.4)	1 001.7	57.9	1 059.6
Consultants and experts	1 194.6	1 205.3	295.8	24.5	1 501.1	89.9	1 591.0
Travel	1 801.6	2 018.2	129.5	6.4	2 147.7	128.8	2 276.5
Contractual services	120.2	83.4	88.1	105.6	171.5	10.1	181.6
General operating expenses	881.8	715.1	(303.1)	(42.3)	412.0	24.8	436.8
Hospitality	56.3	66.5	6.0	9.0	72.5	4.4	76.9
Supplies and materials	66.6	87.0	(54.5)	(62.6)	32.5	1.9	34.4
Furniture and equipment	347.8	584.3	(457.3)	(78.2)	127.0	7.6	134.6
Grants and contributions	1 473.5	1 443.7	(67.7)	(4.6)	1 376.0	56.8	1 432.8
Total	**49 162.7**	**49 916.1**	**(2 049.8)**	**(4.1)**	**47 866.3**	**2 831.6**	**50 697.9**

(2) *Extrabudgetary resources*

1994-1995 expenditures	*1996-1997 estimates*	*Object of expenditure*	*1998-1999 estimates*
177.1	195.2	Posts	261.0
2 777.5	1 831.5	Other staff costs	1 869.1
12.3	615.2	Consultants and experts	645.6
774.0	1 719.0	Travel	1 814.3
2 847.0	42.4	Contractual services	47.1
243.0	180.6	General operating expenses	185.8
0.0	60.0	Supplies and materials	65.0
190.8	8.5	Furniture and equipment	10.0
297.5	126.5	Grants and contributions	147.0
7 319.2	**4 778.9**		**5 044.9**
56 481.9	**54 695.0**		**55 742.8**

Table 2.17 **Post requirements**

Programme of work

	Established posts		*Temporary posts*					
	Regular budget		*Regular budget*		*Extrabudgetary resources*		*Total*	
	1996-1997	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*
Professional category and above								
D-2	10	8	—	—	—	—	10	8
D-1	16	16	1	1	—	—	17	17
P-5	35	30	3	1	—	—	38	31
P-4/3	62	63	2	—	—	—	64	63
P-2/1	12	12	—	—	—	—	12	12
Total	**135**	**129**	**6**	**2**	**—**	**—**	**141**	**131**
General Service category								
Principal level	9	8	—	—	—	—	9	8
Other levels	88	84	8	2	2	2	98	88
Total	**97**	**92**	**8**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**107**	**96**
Other categories								
Local level	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total	**—**	**1**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**1**
Grand total	**232**	**222**	**14**	**4**	**2**	**2**	**248**	**228**

1. Political affairs

(a) Prevention, control and resolution of conflicts, and assistance and support to the Secretary-General in the political aspects of his relations with Member States

Table 2.18 **Summary by object of expenditure**
(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Object of expenditure	*1994-1995 expenditures*	*1996-1997 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*1998-1999 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Posts	14 143.9	16 752.5	(1 555.1)	(9.2)	15 197.4	990.6	16 188.0
Other staff costs	165.5	226.4	(19.2)	(8.4)	207.2	12.3	219.5
Travel	363.3	484.2	—	—	484.2	29.1	513.3
General operating expenses	3.5	201.2	(201.2)	(100.0)	—	—	—
Furniture and equipment	—	150.9	(150.9)	(100.0)	—	—	—
Total	**14 676.2**	**17 815.2**	**(1 926.4)**	**(10.8)**	**15 888.8**	**1 032.0**	**16 920.8**

(2) *Extrabudgetary resources*

1994-1995 expenditures	*1996-1997 estimates*	*Object of expenditure*	*1998-1999 estimates*
—	2.0	General operating expenses	2.1
—	1.0	Supplies and materials	1.5
—	24.0	Furniture and equipment	28.2
—	**27.0**		**31.8**
14 676.2	**17 842.2**		**16 952.6**

Table 2.19 **Post requirements**

Subprogramme 1. Prevention, control and resolution of conflicts, and assistance and support to the Secretary-General in the political aspects of his relations with Member States

	Established posts		*Temporary posts*					
	Regular budget		*Regular budget*		*Extrabudgetary resources*		*Total*	
	1996-1997	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*
Professional category and above								
D-2	6	4	—	—	—	—	6	4
D-1	7	7	—	—	—	—	7	7
P-5	13	12	2	—	—	—	15	12
P-4/3	25	25	1	—	—	—	26	25
P-2/1	5	5	—	—	—	—	5	5
Total	**56**	**53**	**3**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**59**	**53**
General Service category								
Other levels	32	28	—	—	—	—	32	28
Total	**32**	**28**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**32**	**28**
Other categories								
Local level	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total	**—**	**1**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**1**
Grand total	**88**	**82**	**3**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**91**	**82**

2.50 The activities of this subprogramme fall under subprogrammes 1.1, Prevention, control and resolution of conflicts, and 1.2, Assistance and support to the Secretary-General in the political aspects of his relations with Member States, of programme 1, Political affairs, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 (A/51/6/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Corr.1). The activities will be implemented by the four regional divisions, including a liaison office at Addis Ababa that it is proposed to establish. The divisions will be Africa I, Africa II, Americas and Europe (merging the previous Divisions for the Americas and for Europe), and Asia (merging the previous Divisions for East Asia and the Pacific and for West Asia). The purpose of the mergers would be to rectify the top-heaviness of the Department's staffing structure, improve efficiency and address the expressed wish of the General Assembly in its resolution 50/214 for the streamlining of the Department as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

Subprogramme 1
Prevention, control and resolution of conflicts

2.51 The primary purpose of the subprogramme is to support the Secretary-General in the discharge of his global responsibilities related to the prevention, control and resolution of conflicts, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and under the mandates given to him by the General Assembly and the Security Council.

2.52 During the biennium 1998-1999, activities will focus on enhancing the divisions' capacity to monitor political developments relevant to peace and security worldwide; formulating recommendations on probable measures by the United Nations, with the agreement of the Governments concerned, in preventing conflicts or controlling and resolving ongoing conflicts; enhancing the conduct and support of political negotiations; providing substantive direction for non-peacekeeping missions in the field authorized by the General

Assembly and Security Council; and enhancing the ability to identify opportunities for peace-building activities by the United Nations with the consent of the Governments concerned, following discussions with them and with other United Nations bodies; and to monitor the political effects of such peace-building activities.

2.53 The four divisions will achieve the objectives of this subprogramme by following peace- and security-related developments in the regions under their responsibility.

Activities

2.54 During the biennium the following activities will be undertaken:

(a) *Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies*

(i) General Assembly

Parliamentary documentation. Reports of the Secretary-General on various peace and security questions (approximately 20 reports, 1998 and 1999);

Substantive servicing. Provision of substantive background information and advice to the President of the General Assembly, as required;

(ii) Security Council

a. Parliamentary documentation. Reports of the Secretary-General on various peace and security questions (approximately 100 reports, 1998 and 1999);

b. Substantive servicing. Provision of substantive background information and advice to the representatives of the Secretary-General in the Security Council, as required;

(b) *Other substantive activities*

(i) Provision of substantive support to United Nations negotiating efforts and good offices for resolution of conflicts worldwide, including preparation of and participation in good offices missions;

(ii) Provision of political guidance to the special representatives and special envoys of the Secretary-General, including participation in special missions undertaken by them;

(iii) Planning and organization of and participation in fact-finding and other special missions on behalf of the Secretary-General;

(iv) Monitoring and identification of potential conflict areas and assessment of information and preparation of notes and background papers providing early warning, options and recommendations for preventive action;

(c) *International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison*

(i) Liaison, consultations and, as required, negotiations with permanent missions of Member States;

(ii) Participation in and provision of substantive and technical servicing of meetings between the United Nations and various regional organizations, including OAU, OAS, OSCE, LAS, OIC and SADC;

(iii) Participation in regional meetings and donors' forums in connection with areas of political activity, including the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia, to a be organized in Kazakstan by the Economic Cooperation Organization;

(iv) Coordination and liaison with other departments and programmes, especially the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations, Humanitarian Affairs and Administration and Management, the Office of Legal Affairs, the Commission on Human Rights, UNDP and UNHCR;

(v) Participation in the activities of funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, such as UNHCR, UNDP, the World Bank and other relevant agencies;

(vi) Participation in the activities of non-governmental organizations.

Subprogramme 2
Assistance and support to the Secretary-General in the political aspects of his relations with Member States

2.55 The primary objective of this subprogramme is to provide the Secretary-General on a continuous basis with information, analyses and policy advice to facilitate the political aspects of his relations with Member States and with representatives of regional arrangements and organizations and non-governmental organizations.

2.56 For this purpose, the regional divisions will prepare for the Secretary-General substantive correspondence on political issues with the Governments of Member States, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and prominent individuals. They will also provide the Secretary-General with background and briefing materials for his contacts with representatives of Member States at Headquarters or when travelling. They will continue to develop a database related to developments in the field of peace and security for use by the Secretary-General and senior officials and will maintain updated country profiles.

2.57 In this connection, and for the purposes of subprogramme 2, the four divisions will maintain contact or arrangements with regional organizations, relevant non-governmental organizations and academic and research institutes with expertise in their regions. They will serve as focal points and coordinators for overall cooperation between the United Nations system and the secretariats of regional, subregional and other intergovernmental organizations, including especially OAU, SADC, OIC, LAS, OAS, CARICOM and OSCE.

2.58 In addition to its responsibilities under subprogramme 1, the liaison office at Addis Ababa would also support other activities of the regional divisions under this subprogramme.

Activities

2.59 During the biennium the following activities will be undertaken:

(a) *Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies*

(i) General Assembly

Parliamentary documentation. Reports of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and OSCE; a zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic; strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region; cooperation between the United Nations and LAS and the general and sectoral meetings between the United Nations system and LAS and its specialized organizations; cooperation between the United Nations and OIC; the general and sectoral meetings between the United Nations system and OIC and its specialized institutions; and the meeting of the focal points of the lead agencies of the United Nations system and OIC and its specialized institutions; cooperation between the United Nations and OAS and the general and sectoral meetings between the United Nations and OAS; cooperation between the United Nations and OAU; on SADC; and other questions that might arise;

(b) *Other substantive activities*

(i) Preparation of briefing notes, background papers, talking points and profiles for the Secretary-General's meetings with representatives of Member States both in and away from New York;

(ii) Drafting of the Secretary-General's correspondence on political issues with States, intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations;

(iii) Maintenance and development of a database related to international peace and security issues for use by the Secretary-General and senior officials;

(iv) Maintenance of contact with regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, the public and individuals and experts on regional issues;

(c) *International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison*

(i) Participation in seminars and academic meetings relevant to preventive diplomacy and peacemaking;

(ii) Liaison with the departments entrusted with responsibility for political, peacekeeping, humanitarian and international economic cooperation questions, as well as with delegations;

(iii) Participation in the activities of non-governmental organizations, such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the International Studies Association, the Academic Council on the United Nations System and similar groups;

(iv) Coordination and participation in activities of funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, including UNHCR, UNDP, the World Bank and other relevant agencies, as they often contribute in their respective fields of competence to schemes of cooperation with regional organizations;

(v) Close contact and cooperation with regional, interregional and subregional organizations, associations and conferences having observer status or other recognized status with the United Nations, notably OAU, and SADC, OSCE, LAS and all its related organizations, OIC and OAS, as well as organizations operating in the Caribbean, including CARICOM and CDCC, the South Pacific Forum and the South Pacific Commission and related organizations, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Commonwealth on matters of concern to the United Nations in accordance with General Assembly resolutions. Cooperation will be maintained through joint meetings, consultations and other forms of liaison with their respective secretariats; and attendance at the annual meetings of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and summit meetings, where appropriate;

(d) *Substantive and technical secretariat services*

(i) One general meeting and two sectoral meetings between the United Nations system and LAS and its specialized organizations;

(ii) One meeting of the focal points of the lead agencies and one general meeting and two sectoral meetings between the United Nations system and OIC and its specialized institutions;

(iii) General meeting between the United Nations and OAS.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Posts

2.60 Provisions of $15,197,400 relate to the cost of posts indicated in table 2.19. The staffing provides for four regional divisions and includes the liaison office at Addis Ababa. These offices are responsible for implementation of subprogrammes 1.1, Prevention, control and resolution of conflicts, and 1.2, Assistance and support to the Secretary-General in the political aspects of his relations with Member States, of programme 1, Political affairs, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001. It would consist of 53 posts in the Professional category and above (4 D-2, 7 D-1, 12 P-5, 14 P-4, 11 P-3 and 5 P-2); 28 General Service (Other level) and 1 Local level established posts. The current proposals include (a) the abolition of two D-2 posts, one each in the Americas and the West Asia Divisions in view of their mergers with the Europe and East Asia and the Pacific Divisions, respectively; (b) the abolition of one P-5 and three General Service (Other level) posts as a result of rationalization of work within the divisions; (c) the redeployment of one P-5 established post to the Office of the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Political Affairs, redeployment of one P-5 temporary post to subprogramme 3, Electoral assistance, and one P-4, who carries out functions as secretary of the working groups of the General Assembly to be redeployed to subprogramme 5, General Assembly affairs, in furtherance of the Department's restructuring; (d) the proposed conversion of two temporary posts (one P-5 and one P-4) to established posts in view of the continuing nature of the activities to which they are assigned; and (e) the conversion of one General Service (Other level) post to a Local level post for the Liaison Office at Addis Ababa. The distribution of posts in the biennium 1998-1999 for subprogrammes 1 and 2, as subdivided in the table below, might be adjusted during implementation of the activities as a result of the inevitable flow in the

volume of work in each division as new crises develop and old ones are resolved and as opportunities for successful preventive diplomacy and peacemaking are met:

	Africa I Division	Africa II Division	America and Europe Division	Asia Division	Total
Professional category and above					
D-2	1	1	1	1	4
D-1	2	1	2	2	7
P-5	2	2	4	4	12
P-4/3	5	6	7	7	25
P-2/1	1	1	2	1	5
Subtotal	**11**	**11**	**16**	**15**	**53**
General Service and other categories					
Other levels	6	6	8	8	28
Local level	1	—	—	—	1
Subtotal	**7**	**6**	**8**	**8**	**29**
Total	**18**	**17**	**24**	**23**	**82**

Other staff costs

2.61 The provisions of $207,200 relate to overtime ($120,700) and general temporary assistance ($86,500). The nature of the activities of the divisions frequently requires work to be done outside established working hours, resulting in overtime requirements. General temporary assistance relates to the temporary replacement of staff on maternity leave and extended sick leave and for supplementary staff during periods of peak workload.

Travel

2.62 The proposed provision of $484,200 relates to travel of staff attending meetings of regional organizations; participating in conferences and seminars in the area of preventive diplomacy and peacemaking; undertaking fact-finding and other missions; and accompanying special representatives and special envoys of the Secretary-General.

General operating expenses

2.63 Provisions of $201,200 related to communications are to be centralized. Accordingly, the resources under this heading are proposed to be redeployed to programme support.

Furniture and equipment

2.64 A one-time provision of $150,900 was requested in the biennium 1996-1997 to cover the acquisition of office automation equipment. The acquisitions were made in 1996-1997. Accordingly, no provisions are proposed for the biennium 1998-1999.

(b) Electoral assistance

Table 2.20 **Summary by object of expenditure**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Object of expenditure	*1994-1995 expenditures*	*1996-1997 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*1998-1999 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Posts	1 722.8	1 994.7	410.2	20.5	2 404.9	154.3	2 559.2
Other staff costs	—	12.6	—	—	12.6	0.8	13.4
Consultants and experts	22.0	48.6	—	—	48.6	3.0	51.6
Travel	35.3	40.2	31.8	79.1	72.0	4.3	76.3
Furniture and equipment	0.1	25.0	(25.0)	(100.0)	—	—	—
Total	**1 780.2**	**2 121.1**	**417.0**	**19.6**	**2 538.1**	**162.4**	**2 700.5**

(2) *Extrabudgetary resources*

1994-1995 expenditures	*1996-1997 estimates*	*Object of expenditure*	*1998-1999 estimates*
846.0	101.7	Other staff costs	117.0
—	173.9	Consultants and experts	201.0
296.5	221.7	Travel	257.0
2 820.4	—	Contractual services	—
134.2	30.8	General operating expenses	35.0
—	—	Supplies and materials	—
110.6	—	Furniture and equipment	—
69.8	126.5	Grants and contributions	146.0
4 277.5	**654.6**		**756.0**
6 057.7	**2 775.7**		**3 456.5**

Table 2.21 **Post requirements**

Subprogramme 3. Electoral assistance

	Established posts		*Temporary posts*					
	Regular budget		*Regular budget*		*Extrabudgetary resources*		*Total*	
	1996-1997	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*
Professional category and above								
D-2	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
D-1	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1
P-5	2	2	—	1	—	—	2	3
P-4/3	3	3	—	—	—	—	3	3
Total	**6**	**6**	**1**	**2**	**—**	**—**	**7**	**8**
General Service category								
Other levels	4	4	1	—	—	—	5	4
Total	**4**	**4**	**1**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**5**	**4**
Grand total	**10**	**10**	**2**	**2**	**—**	**—**	**12**	**12**

Subprogramme 3
Electoral assistance

2.65 Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/137 of 17 December 1991 and successive resolutions on the question of electoral assistance, the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 sets out the objectives of this subprogramme, which are to be carried out by the Electoral Assistance Division. The Division provides the Secretary-General and the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, who is appointed by the Secretary-General as the United Nations Focal Point for Electoral Assistance Activities, with the necessary support in providing United Nations electoral assistance to Member States that request it.

2.66 Since 1992, the United Nations has received 125 requests for electoral assistance from Member States. Of this total, 22 requests were received in 1995 and 25 in 1996. Recent experience has demonstrated, however, that United Nations assistance rendered in the field of electoral assistance is geared more and more to smaller missions, which give technical assistance to the electoral authorities of the Member State concerned in coordinating the electoral support provided by others, or provide a symbolic United Nations presence, rather than the large missions of prior years for which it organized and conducted (e.g. Cambodia) or observed (e.g. Angola, El Salvador, Namibia, Nicaragua and South Africa) elections.

2.67 Consequently, in its implementation of the subprogramme, the Division will evaluate, in consultation with the regional division concerned, requests received from Member States, to validate that they conform with the established criteria for the provision of electoral assistance by the United Nations and submit the necessary recommendations to the Focal Point and, through her/him, to the Secretary-General. The decision to respond positively to a request requires the organization, briefing, deployment and backstopping of a needs assessment mission, which, in consultation with the Government and electoral authorities concerned, results in recommendations as to the form and modalities of the electoral assistance to be provided. A plan is prepared on the basis of the assessment mission's report and, when that plan has been approved, arrangements are made for its implementation in close coordination with other bodies of the United Nations system, such as the Department for Development Support and Management, the Centre for Human Rights and UNDP, as well as regional organizations, bilateral donors and non-governmental organizations. The maintenance of a roster of electoral experts, an inventory of and continuous liaison with other entities active in the electoral assistance field and assessment of the experience of electoral assistance

activities in order to refine the modalities employed by the United Nations and continuous updating of standing guidelines for United Nations activities in this field will also be carried out. Other aspects of the work programme include design of the electoral component of United Nations peacekeeping operations, preparation in consultation with other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations of technical papers and the organization, also with other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, of seminars and symposia on specific electoral matters. The prospect of sufficient voluntary contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Electoral Activities will certainly have a bearing on the level of activities carried out.

Activities

2.68 During the biennium the following activities will be undertaken:

(a) *Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies*

(i) General Assembly

Parliamentary documentation. Reports of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the activities of the United Nations to enhance the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections (1998 and 1999);

(b) *Other substantive activities (RB/XB)*

(i) Electoral assistance missions. Conducting exploratory or needs assessment missions following the evaluation of requests, the outcome of which requires preparation of a plan and follow-up for their implementation, including coordinating and supporting the activities of international observers; and technical assistance, follow-up and reporting missions, as well as implementation and organization of supervisory and verification missions;

(ii) Technical material

a. Strengthening the existing institutional memory, so as to ensure consistency in planning technical assistance, through (i) the retrieval of information; (ii) the evaluation of information; (iii) the preparation of guidelines and training materials on various aspects of electoral assistance for the purpose of dissemination; and (iv) field visits;

b. Preparation, in consultation with other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, of technical papers addressing specific topics in the field of electoral administration and observation;

c. Maintenance and expansion of the roster of international experts who could provide technical assistance, including assistance to projects on the organization and conduct, supervision and verification of elections;

d. Design of the electoral component of United Nations peacekeeping operations, including the development of operational strategies and ongoing support;

(c) *International cooperation and inter-agency coordination (RB/XB)*

(i) Maintenance of contacts with United Nations agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations involved in providing specific or general electoral assistance in order to streamline joint assistance and avoid duplication;

(ii) Development of regional networks involved in elections and exchange of regional experts within the same regions. During the coming biennium emphasis will be placed on the whole of Africa, Caucasia and Asia, in particular Central Asia;

(iii) Participation with other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations in seminars and symposia on specific electoral matters;

(d) *Technical cooperation (RB/XB)*

(i) Advisory services at the request of Governments. Assessment of requests received from Member States for the provision of electoral assistance by the United Nations and informing them whether the requests conform or not with established criteria. In cases where it is decided to

respond positively to a request, Member States are informed of the modalities employed by the United Nations;

(ii) Group training (seminars, workshops and symposia). Two workshops on various aspects of electoral assistance to electoral processes, to be held possibly in Africa and Asia;

(iii) Field projects. Projects in cooperation with international and other United Nations organizations funded from the United Nations Trust Fund for Electoral Observation.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Posts

2.69 The proposed staffing table of the Electoral Assistance Division consists of eight posts in the Professional category and above (one D-2, two P-5 and three P-4/P-3 established posts and one D-1 and one P-5 temporary posts) and four General Service (Other level) established posts. The increase of $410,200 reflects the combined effect of the application of the new standardized vacancy rates, the redeployment of one P-5 temporary post from subprogrammes 1 and 2 to the Division in order to strengthen it further, as recommended by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/185, and the redeployment of one General Service (Other level) temporary post to programme support, arising from the need for technical support for the Department's technological innovations efforts.

Other staff costs

2.70 Other staff costs ($12,600) provides for overtime requirements of the Division.

Consultants and experts

2.71 The requirements of $48,600 would cover specialized outside expertise to assist with training materials for electoral observers and electoral verification missions.

Travel

2.72 Approximately 50 electoral assistance missions are expected to be undertaken during the biennium. On the basis of experience in funding such missions, a provision of $72,000, reflecting an increase of $31,800, is requested. These resources would cover about 12 needs assessment missions. The cost of approximately 38 missions will be met by the United Nations Trust Fund for Electoral Observation and UNDP.

Furniture and equipment

2.73 Resources amounting to $25,000 in the biennium 1996-1997 related to the replacement of office automation equipment for the Division. As the replacement programme for office automation equipment would be centralized under programme support during the biennium 1998-1999, no provisions are requested here.

(c) Security Council affairs

Table 2.22 **Summary by object of expenditure**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	*1994-1995 expenditures*	*1996-1997 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*1998-1999 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Posts	7 417.0	8 739.8	(547.3)	(6.2)	8 192.5	525.6	8 718.1
Other staff costs	326.4	186.1	—	—	186.1	11.2	197.3
Consultants and experts	—	10.0	26.1	261.0	36.1	2.2	38.3
Travel	16.8	8.8	3.2	36.3	12.0	0.7	12.7
Contractual services	0.1	—	36.3	—	36.3	2.1	38.4
General operating expenses	—	29.0	(29.0)	(100.0)	—	—	—
Furniture and equipment	—	105.1	(105.1)	(100.0)	—	—	—
Total	**7 760.3**	**9 078.8**	**(615.8)**	**(6.7)**	**8 463.0**	**541.8**	**9 004.8**

Table 2.23 **Post requirements**

Subprogramme 4. Security Council affairs

	Established posts		*Temporary posts*					
	Regular budget		*Regular budget*		*Extrabudgetary resources*		*Total*	
	1996-1997	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*
Professional category and above								
D-2	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
D-1	3	3	—	—	—	—	3	3
P-5	6	6	1	—	—	—	7	6
P-4/3	11	11	1	—	—	—	12	11
P-2/1	3	3	—	—	—	—	3	3
Total	**24**	**24**	**2**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**26**	**24**
General Service category								
Principal level	3	3	—	—	—	—	3	3
Other levels	18	20	7	2	—	—	25	22
Total	**21**	**23**	**7**	**2**	**—**	**—**	**28**	**25**
Grand total	**45**	**47**	**9**	**2**	**—**	**—**	**54**	**49**

Subprogramme 4
Security Council affairs

2.74 This subprogramme covers activities relating to subprogramme 1.4, Security Council affairs, of programme 1, Political affairs, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, which are carried out by the Security Council Affairs Division, consisting of the following subdivisional organizational units: the Office of the Director, the Security Council Secretariat Branch, the Security Council Subsidiary Organs Branch, the Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch and the Secretariat of the Military Staff Committee.

2.75 The Security Council, one of the principal organs of the United Nations, was established under Article 7 of the Charter and is charged with the primary responsibility for maintenance of international peace and security. As specified in Article 28 of the Charter, the Council is so organized as to be able to function continuously. It is authorized, under Article 29 of the Charter, to establish such subsidiary organs as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions. Such bodies, of either fixed or indeterminate duration, meet as required.

2.76 During the biennium 1998-1999, the Security Council Affairs Division will continue to provide substantive services to the Security Council and its subsidiary organs, including, as required, substantive services for missions and meetings of the Security Council away from Headquarters; maintaining necessary liaison with delegations and with other United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental organizations; and the preparation of the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* and other reports and studies called for by decisions of the deliberative bodies concerned.

Activities

2.77 During the biennium the following activities will be undertaken:

(a) *Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB)*

(i) General Assembly

Parliamentary documentation. Report of the Security Council to the General Assembly (1998 and 1999);

(ii) Security Council

a. Parliamentary documentation. Reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council in pursuance of legislative decisions, as required; and reports of subsidiary organs of the Council to the Council, as required;

b. Substantive services. Meetings and consultations of the Council as a whole, meetings of informal working groups of the Council and bilateral and group consultations, as required, the frequency of meetings and consultations being determined by the Council itself (approximately 240 meetings and 450 consultations); and meetings of subsidiary organs of the Council, as required. There are currently nine such organs: the Security Council Committee of Experts; the Security Council Committee on the Admission of New Members (2 formal and 1 informal meetings); the Security Council Committee on Council Meetings away from Headquarters; the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) concerning the situation between Iraq and Kuwait, including activities in support of the oil for food operation under resolution 986 (1995) (37 formal and 60 informal meetings); the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 748 (1992) concerning the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (18 formal and 7 informal meetings); the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia (5 formal meetings); the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 864 (1993) concerning Angola (6 formal meetings); the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 918 (1994) concerning Rwanda (6 formal meetings) and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 985 (1995) concerning Liberia (4 formal meetings);

(b) *Other substantive activities (RB)*

(i) Recurrent publications. Completion of drafting for the eleventh supplement to the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* (1989-1992) and commencement of work on the twelfth supplement (1993-1996); and contributions to the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*;

(ii) Technical material. Maintenance and development of a large and frequently used database, which facilitates full-text searches of Security Council documentation. This enables users to respond rapidly to research and information needs relating to the work of the Security Council; and conversion of texts of available Security Council resolutions and Presidential statements

from the optical disk system (ODS), to the hyper text markup language (HTML) format, which has the capability to link different documents together and to download them to the home page of the United Nations on the Internet. The ability to download other Security Council documents to the United Nations home page is also anticipated.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Posts

2.78 The proposed staffing of subprogramme 4, Security Council affairs, for the biennium 1998-1999 would consist of 47 established and 2 temporary posts, as shown in table 2.23. The 1998-1999 staffing reflects (a) the abolition of four temporary posts (one P-5 and three General Service) provided to service the Security Council sanctions committees; (b) the redeployment of one P-4 established post to the programme on disarmament to strengthen the activities relating to regional issues in Africa; and (c) the conversion of one P-4 post and two General Service (Other level) temporary posts to established posts. The distribution of posts among the units of the Security Council Affairs Division would be as follows:

	Office of the Director	*Security Council Secretariat Branch*	*Security Council Subsidiary Organs Branch*	*Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch*	*Military Staff Committee Secretariat*	*Total*
Professional category and above						
D-2	1	—	—	—	—	1
D-1	—	1	1	1	—	3
P-5	—	2	3	1	—	6
P-4/3	—	4	3	3	1	11
P-2/1	—	1	1	1	—	3
Total	**1**	**8**	**8**	**6**	**1**	**24**
General Service category	**1**	**11**	**9**	**3**	**1**	**25**
Grand total	**2**	**19**	**17**	**9**	**2**	**49**

Other staff costs

2.79 The estimated requirements of $186,100 would provide for general temporary assistance ($86,500) and overtime ($99,600). The provision for overtime is proposed in view of the unpredictability inherent in the work of the Security Council, including the extensive servicing of its sanctions committees. Requirements for general temporary assistance relate to the elimination of the accumulated backlog in the preparation of the *Repertoire*, covering the years since 1989, and the *Repertory*, since 1979, for which a minimum of approximately 12 work/months at the P-4 level is requested.

Consultants and experts

2.80 A provision of $36,100, reflecting an increase of $26,100, is proposed in connection with specialized services required in implementation of specific recommendations related to the publication of the supplements of the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*.

Travel

2.81 The estimated requirements of $12,000 would provide for travel by staff for consultations concerning the work of the Security Council and participation in seminars, relevant workshops and external briefing sessions on the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies. An increase of $3,200 is foreseen under this heading.

Contractual services

2.82 Estimated requirements of $36,300 would cover specialized indexing services for the French edition of the eighth supplement to the *Repertoire*, which is essentially ready, and, upon translation, the indexing of the ninth supplement.

General operating expenses

2.83 Provisions of $29,000 provided for the biennium 1996-1997 related to communications in connection with long-distance telephone calls and facsimiles for the activities of the Security Council. These will be centralized under programme support and accordingly no resources are requested under this subprogramme.

Furniture and equipment

2.84 As the replacement programme will be centralized under programme support no related resources are being requested under this subprogramme.

(d) General Assembly affairs

Table 2.24 **Summary by object of expenditure**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	*1994-1995 expenditures*	*1996-1997 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*1998-1999 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Posts	2 810.6	2 426.3	767.3	31.6	3 193.6	204.4	3 398.0
Other staff costs	259.6	168.8	—	—	168.8	10.1	178.9
Travel	—	8.8	3.2	36.3	12.0	0.7	12.7
Contractual services	3.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
General operating expenses	—	29.0	(29.0)	(100.0)	—	—	—
Furniture and equipment	—	86.4	(86.4)	(100.0)	—	—	—
Total	**3 073.6**	**2 719.3**	**655.1**	**24.0**	**3 374.4**	**215.2**	**3 589.6**

Table 2.25 **Post requirements**

Subprogramme 5. General Assembly affairs

	Established posts		*Temporary posts*					
	Regular budget		*Regular budget*		*Extrabudgetary resources*		*Total*	
	1996-1997	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*
Professional category and above								
D-2	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
D-1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
P-5	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
P-4/3	3	5	—	—	—	—	3	5
P-2/1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
Total	**7**	**9**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**7**	**9**
General Service category								
Principal level	2	2	—	—	—	—	2	2
Other levels	7	8	—	—	—	—	7	8
Total	**9**	**10**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**9**	**10**
Grand total	**16**	**19**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**16**	**19**

2.85 This subprogramme covers activities relating to subprogramme 1.5, General Assembly affairs, of programme 1, Political affairs, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, which are carried out by the General Assembly Affairs Division. Subdivisional organizational units of the Division provided for under this subprogramme consist of the Office of Director; the General Assembly Secretariat Branch; and the General Assembly Subsidiary Organs Branch. The Office of the Director of the Division provides guidance and supervision of the activities relating to subprogramme 6, Decolonization, implemented by the Decolonization Unit and to subprogramme 7, Question of Palestine, implemented by the Division for Palestinian Rights, which are provided for in respective subsections below.

2.86 The major objective of this subprogramme is to ensure, through the provision of authoritative advice and substantive services, the orderly and procedurally correct conduct of the meetings and other work of the General Assembly and its General Committee in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the Assembly's rules of procedure and established practice. Activities will therefore include the preparation of analytical studies on the rules and procedures of the Assembly and consultations with its President, the presiding officers of the Main Committees, Member States and intergovernmental bodies for the efficient conduct of its business, including the scheduling of meetings.

Subprogramme 5
General Assembly affairs

2.87 To facilitate the organization and conduct of the meetings of the General Assembly, parliamentary documentation will be prepared and duly authorized submission of reports and communications for processing as official General Assembly documents, as well as their timely issuance in accordance with the practice, programme of work and schedule of the Assembly will be ensured.

2.88 Another goal of this subprogramme is to provide technical advice and substantive services to various subsidiary organs of the Assembly, which currently include the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters Related to the Security Council, and to various informal working groups of the whole, including the Informal Open-ended Working Group on An Agenda for Peace and its four Subgroups: Preventive

Diplomacy and Peacemaking; Question of United Nations Imposed Sanctions; Post-conflict Peace-building; and Coordination. Technical services are also provided to the Open-ended High-level Working Group of the General Assembly on the Strengthening of the United Nations System, its subgroup on the participation of non-governmental organizations in United Nations activities and the High-level Open-ended Working Group on the Financial Situation of the United Nations.

2.89 Activities will also include cooperation with the hosts of international conferences on new or restored democracies, as requested in resolution 51/31, as well as liaison with the representatives of United Nations agencies, academia and non-governmental organizations on this question.

Activities

2.90 During the biennium the following activities will be undertaken:

(a) *Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies*

(i) General Assembly

a. Parliamentary documentation. Report of the Secretary-General on new or restored democracies (1998 and 1999); and preparation and submission for issuance of all documents relating to the organization of the General Assembly: the preliminary list of items, the provisional and final agendas, the supplementary list of items, the list of additional items, the memorandum of the Secretary-General on the organization of the work of the Assembly, reports of the General Committee to the Assembly, the state of preparation of Assembly documentation, the annotated preliminary list and its addendum, the list of resolutions and texts of decisions adopted by the Assembly (1998 and 1999);

b. Substantive support/servicing. Provision of secretariat and support services to the General Assembly and its General Committee and substantive services to its subsidiary bodies and working groups, other than those in the economic and social areas; and planning and organization of activities and services related to the sessions of the General Assembly; assistance to the President of the Assembly on all matters relating to the conduct of the Assembly, including the work of the Main Committees and subsidiary organs; advice to the President of the General Assembly, Member States and observer delegations and Secretariat officials and others in the United Nations system on the work of the Assembly; preparation of procedural notes for the President of the General Assembly and the Chairman of the General Committee; planning, establishment and coordination of lists of speakers for the general debate and the consideration of agenda items by the Assembly; advice to those responsible for documentation for the Assembly on matters relating to the *Official Records of the General Assembly*; ensuring that Assembly documents prepared by the Secretariat and those emanating from intergovernmental bodies or subsidiary bodies of the Assembly are clear, comprehensible and correct; approval of documents for issuance in accordance with the appropriate legislative mandate; advice to permanent missions on communications distributed as official parliamentary documents; provision of secretariat services to subsidiary bodies and working groups of the Assembly and special conferences and meetings; and identifying Secretariat units and United Nations programmes responsible for implementation of Assembly resolutions and decisions;

c. Substantive services. Plenary meetings of the General Assembly during its fifty-second and fifty-third sessions (approximately 140 per session, 1998 and 1999); meetings of the General Committee of the General Assembly during the fifty-second and fifty-third sessions (approximately 10 per session, 1998 and 1999); special session on drugs (6 plenary meetings, 1998); special session on disarmament (10 plenary meetings, 1999); Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly (10 meetings per year); and high-level meetings between the United Nations and regional organizations (4 meetings per year);

d. Technical servicing. General Assembly plenary meetings (140); General Committee meetings (10); meetings of the Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly (10) and high-level meetings between the United Nations and regional organizations (4 per year) (1998 and 1999); and General Assembly special session plenary meetings (6 in 1998 and 10 in 1999);

(ii) Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters Related to the Security Council

a. Parliamentary documentation. Annual report and annexes of the Open-ended Working Group (1998 and 1999);

b. Substantive servicing. Formal, informal and Bureau meetings (80 meetings per year); substantive notes and drafts provided to the Bureau of the Open-ended Working Group (300 pages per year); sessional notes and other documents prepared for meetings of the Open-ended Working Group (100 pages per year); and conference room papers of the Open-ended Working Group (50 pages per year);

c. Technical servicing of 30 formal, 20 informal and 30 Bureau meetings per year;

(iii) High-level Open-ended Working Group on the Financial Situation of the United Nations

a. Parliamentary documentation. Report of the Working Group and annexes (1998 and 1999);

b. Substantive servicing. Meetings of the Working Group (30 per year); substantive notes provided to the Bureau of the Working Group (200 pages per year); and working papers for meetings of the Working Group (100 pages per year);

c. Technical servicing. Formal meetings of the Working Group (30, 1998 and 1999);

(iv) Open-ended High-level Working Group on the Strengthening of the United Nations System and its Subgroup on the Participation of Non-Governmental Organizations in United Nations Activities

a. Parliamentary documentation. Reports of the Working Group and/or its Subgroup (1998 and 1999);

b. Substantive servicing. Organization, planning and coordination with Conference Services and other Secretariat departments on all activities related to the organization of meetings of the Working Group; provision of assistance and advice to the Vice-Chairmen of the Working Group on all matters relating to the conduct of the work; and preparation and submission for issuance of all documents relating to the organization and to the provisional and final agenda of the General Assembly;

c. Technical servicing. Technical servicing of meetings, including formal, informal and Bureau meetings (75 per year);

(v) Informal Open-ended Working Group on An Agenda for Peace and its four Subgroups: Preventive Diplomacy and Peacemaking; Question of United Nations Imposed Sanctions; Post-conflict Peace-building; and Coordination

a. Parliamentary documentation. Reports of the Working Group and/or its Subgroups (1998 and 1999);

b. Substantive servicing. Meetings of the Working Group, including formal, informal and Bureau meetings (80 per year); substantive notes and drafts provided to the Bureau of the Working Group (300 pages per year); sessional notes and other documents for the Working Group (100 pages per year); and conference room papers of the Working Group (50 pages per year);

c. Technical servicing. Twenty formal, 25 informal and 30 Bureau meetings per year;

(b) *Other substantive activities*

(i) Recurrent publications. *Information for Delegations* (1998 and 1999);

(ii) Non-recurrent publications. Relevant sections of the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* (1998 and 1999);

(iii) Maintenance of a reference library, including a computerized information system;

(iv) Maintenance of an electronic reference system on General Assembly practices, precedents, rules of procedure and subsidiary organs;

(c) *International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison*

(i) Participation by Secretariat officials in the international conferences of new or restored democracies, seminars and other meetings organized by non-governmental organizations, liaison and cooperation with the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, as well as participation in the Administrative Committee on Coordination and its subsidiary machinery, in connection with the preparation of two reports of the Secretary-General on new or restored democracies;

(ii) Coordination of activities and services related to the organization of regular and special sessions of the General Assembly within the Secretariat, *inter alia*, with the Office of Conference and Support Services, as well as between the Secretariat and delegations, organizations of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental bodies; coordination with substantive units and the secretariats of the Main Committees on questions related to the servicing of the Assembly, including scheduling; coordination with substantive units for the preparation of the memorandum on the implementation of resolutions of the Assembly; coordination with substantive units on the establishment and appointment of members to subsidiary organs of the Assembly; coordination of production of Assembly documents by the Secretariat, including the establishment and maintenance of the schedule of documentation for current and future sessions; and coordination with author departments and offices and with the Office of Conference and Support Services to ensure timely submission, processing and issuance of documentation;

(iii) Coordination of activities and services related to the organization of the meetings of working groups of the General Assembly and conferences;

(iv) Coordination and liaison with international institutions and agencies, regional organizations, research institutions, non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations and members of the academic community on issues within the purview of the Division and participation in seminars and other activities organized by them;

(v) Liaison with the permanent missions of Member States and observer missions.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Posts

2.91 The staffing for activities falling under subprogramme 5, General Assembly affairs, in the General Assembly Affairs Division, as shown in table 2.25, would be distributed in the biennium 1998-1999 as follows:

	Office of the Director	*General Assembly Secretariat Branch*	*General Assembly Subsidiary Organs Branch*	*Total*
Professional category and above				
D-2	1	—	—	1
D-1	—	1	—	1
P-5	—	1	—	1
P-4/3	—	3	2	5
P-2/1	—	1	—	1
Subtotal	**1**	**6**	**2**	**9**
General Service Category	**1**	**8**	**1**	**10**
Total	**2**	**14**	**3**	**19**

2.92 The level of staffing indicated in table 2.25 reflects an increase of three posts compared with 1996-1997. This increase would be met by the redeployment from subprogramme 6, Decolonization, whose activities were previously reflected under this subprogramme, of two posts (one P-4 and one General Service) to provide for the Secretariat of the Fourth Committee, and the redeployment from subprogrammes 1 and 2 of one P-4 post to serve as secretary of one of the working groups of the General Assembly. The resource growth of $767,300 reflects the combined effect of these redeployments and the application of the new standardized vacancy rates.

Other staff costs

2.93 The provision of $168,800 would cover the cost of general temporary assistance ($86,500) for coordinating and servicing meetings and overtime ($82,300) during periods of peak workload.

Travel

2.94 The estimated requirements of $12,000 would provide for travel of staff for consultations and attendance at seminars and conferences concerning the work of the General Assembly.

General operating expenses

2.95 The resources related to communications would be centralized during the biennium 1998-1999 under programme support. Accordingly, no provisions are requested under this subprogramme.

Furniture and Equipment

2.96 The replacement programme for office automation equipment would also be centralized under programme support. Accordingly, no provisions are requested under this subprogramme.

(e) Decolonization

Table 2.26 **Summary by object of expenditure**
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	*1994-1995 expenditures*	*1996-1997 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*1998-1999 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Posts	2 172.3	1 249.1	(210.4)	(16.8)	1 038.7	66.2	1 104.9
Other staff costs	14.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
General operating expenses	2.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	**2 189.5**	**1 249.1**	**(210.4)**	**(16.8)**	**1 038.7**	**66.2**	**1 104.9**

Table 2.27 **Post requirements**

Subprogramme 6. Decolonization

	Established posts		*Temporary posts*					
	Regular budget		*Regular budget*		*Extrabudgetary resources*		*Total*	
	1996-1997	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*
Professional category and above								
D-1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
P-5	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
P-4/3	2	1	—	—	—	—	2	1
Total	**4**	**3**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**4**	**3**
General Service category								
Other levels	4	3	—	—	—	—	4	3
Total	**4**	**3**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**4**	**3**
Grand total	**8**	**6**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**8**	**6**

Subprogramme 6
Decolonization

2.97 The activities of subprogramme 6 will be implemented by the Decolonization Unit in the General Assembly Subsidiary Organs Branch of the General Assembly Affairs Division. The Division's responsibilities with regard to subprogramme 5, General Assembly affairs, have been described above. In accordance with the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, the Decolonization Unit will provide substantive and technical services to the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and will monitor implementation of relevant resolutions of the Assembly. Activities are dependent on the programme of work of the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies, which are approved annually by the General Assembly and are therefore subject to any directives that the Assembly may give at its fifty-second and fifty-third sessions in respect of the Special Committee's programme of work.

2.98 In addition, activities carried out by the Decolonization Unit would ensure the provision of substantive and technical services and the orderly and procedurally correct conduct of the work of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of procedure and established practice of the General Assembly.

2.99 Activities of the subprogramme would also include provision of substantive and technical services to the Trusteeship Council if it should meet on matters arising under Chapter XIII of the Charter.

Activities

2.100 During the biennium the following activities will be undertaken:

(a) *Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies*

(i) Trusteeship Council

Substantive servicing. If the need arises for the Trusteeship Council to meet, it would be provided with the required substantive servicing. It is anticipated that servicing requirements could be met within the resources made available to the Department;

(ii) Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

a. Parliamentary documentation. Annual reports to the General Assembly on guidelines and rules of procedure for the regional seminar (1 per year); report of the regional seminar (1 per year); approximately 20 conference room papers and background papers per regional seminar (1998 and 1999); pre- and in-session documentation for the regional seminars (1998 and 1999); implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples; information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations; activities of foreign economic and other interests that impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination; implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations; offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (1998 and 1999); effects of atomic radiation (1998 and 1999); international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (1998 and 1999); comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (1998 and 1999); questions relating to information (1998 and 1999); United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (1998 and 1999); report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting Human Rights of the Palestinian People and other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (1998 and 1999); the situation in the occupied territories of Croatia (1998 and 1999); requests for hearing on the decolonization items (10-15); and pre- and in-session documentation of the Fourth Committee on the organization of work (including list of delegations of the Committee);

b. Substantive servicing. Committee plenary (25 meetings per year); and informal consultations (5 per year);

(iii) Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

a. Parliamentary documentation. Annual reports to the Special Committee on the political, economic and social conditions in each of the following Non-Self-Governing Territories: East Timor, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Gibraltar, New Caledonia and Western Sahara; annual reports to the General Assembly; and documents on the organization of work in limited series: (i) report of the Chairman on implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (1998 and 1999); (ii) report of the Chairman on visiting missions to the Territories; (iii) approximately 15 aide-memoires per session of the Special Committee (1998 and 1989); and one annual eight-part 12-chapter report to the General Assembly (1998 and 1999);

b. Technical servicing. Processing annually of approximately 100 communications and requests for hearings relating to the Non-Self-Governing Territories from individuals and non-governmental organizations;

(iv) Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance of the Special Committee

a. Parliamentary documentation. Twelve annual reports on the political, economic and social conditions in each of the following Non-Self-Governing Territories: American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands, incorporating information on activities of foreign economic and other interests that impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination (Anguilla, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands) and on military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their

administration (Bermuda, Guam and the United States Virgin Islands); and report of the Subcommittee (1998 and 1999);

b. Substantive servicing. Plenary meetings (20 per year); and informal consultations (5 per year);

(v) Working Group of the Special Committee

a. Parliamentary documentation. Annual report (1998 and 1999);

b. Substantive servicing. Plenary meetings (2 per year);

(vi) Visiting missions of the Special Committee to the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Representatives of the Special Committee and staff members on a maximum of three visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories, preceded or followed by two days of consultations with the administering Power concerned in its capital;

(b) *Other substantive activities*. Organization and servicing of one regional seminar per year in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions, respectively, in accordance with the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

(i) Parliamentary documentation. Guidelines and rules of procedure for the regional seminars (1 per year); report of the regional seminars (1 per year); approximately 20 conference room and background papers per regional seminar; and annual pre- and in-session documentation for the regional seminars (list of participants, agenda, etc.);

(ii) Substantive servicing. Plenary meetings (8 per year); and Bureau meetings (1 per year);

(iii) Technical servicing. Processing of approximately 100 communications relating to the organization and servicing of the regional seminars;

(iv) Recurrent publications. Preparation and publication of studies and monographs in the field of decolonization in a series entitled *Decolonization*;

(v) Information materials and services. Substantive assistance to and organization in cooperation with the Department of Public Information of various information projects and publications relating to decolonization, as follows: booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts and information kits — briefings on matters relating to decolonization to delegations and organizations; exhibits and other visual materials — periodic exhibits of visual displays and posters on decolonization; production of documentary films and slide sets; and radio programmes on decolonization;

(c) *International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison*

(i) Cooperation with the Department of Public Information in the dissemination of information on decolonization of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(ii) Liaison throughout the biennium with permanent missions of the administering Powers on matters relating to Territories under their administration, in particular with respect to the provision of documents called for by Article 73 *e* of the Charter;

(iii) Liaison with specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations on issues relating to decolonization;

(iv) Coordination, when appropriate, of assistance by the specialized agencies to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(v) Consultation and exchange of information between the United Nations, OAU, OAS, other organizations operating in CARICOM, including CDCC, the South Pacific Commission and the South Pacific Forum and related organizations, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Commonwealth on matters relating to the implementation of various resolutions on decolonization; and liaison with non-governmental organizations in the field of decolonization.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Posts

2.101 The staffing table of subprogramme 6, Decolonization, proposed for the biennium 1998-1999 appears in table 2.27. The staffing reflects the redeployment of two posts (one P-4 and one General Service) to the General Assembly Affairs Division. In addition, functions assigned to the D-1 post would provide concurrently for the Secretary of the Fourth Committee, the supervision of activities relating to subprogramme 6 and the servicing of various working groups established by the President of the General Assembly. The negative growth of $210,400 reflects the combined effect of these redeployments and the application of the new standardized vacancy rates.

(f) Question of Palestine

Table 2.28 Summary by object of expenditure
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	1994-1995 expenditures	1996-1997 appropriations	Resource growth		Total before recosting	Recosting	1998-1999 estimates
			Amount	Percentage			
Posts	2 691.4	2 745.9	(156.2)	(5.6)	2 589.7	168.2	2 757.9
Other staff costs	84.2	93.6	—	—	93.6	5.6	99.2
Consultants and experts	—	8.2	21.9	267.0	30.1	1.8	31.9
Travel	695.5	1 036.3	138.8	13.3	1 175.1	70.4	1 245.5
Contractual services	4.6	13.5	51.8	383.7	65.3	3.8	69.1
General operating expenses	197.9	287.2	(37.2)	(12.9)	250.0	15.0	265.0
Hospitality	45.5	60.5	—	—	60.5	3.6	64.1
Supplies and materials	15.8	20.1	(8.1)	(40.2)	12.0	0.7	12.7
Furniture and equipment	46.7	57.5	—	—	57.5	3.4	60.9
Total	**3 781.6**	**4 322.8**	**11.0**	**0.2**	**4 333.8**	**272.5**	**4 606.3**

Table 2.29 Post requirements

Subprogramme 7. Question of Palestine

	Established posts		Temporary posts					
	Regular budget		Regular budget		Extrabudgetary resources		Total	
	1996-1997	1998-1999	1996-1997	1998-1999	1996-1997	1998-1999	1996-1997	1998-1999
Professional category and above								
D-1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
P-5	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
P-4/3	8	7	—	—	—	—	8	7
Total	**10**	**9**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**10**	**9**
General Service category								
Other levels	7	6	—	—	—	—	7	6
Total	**7**	**6**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**7**	**6**
Grand total	**17**	**15**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**17**	**15**

Subprogramme 7
Question of Palestine

2.102 The subprogramme will be implemented by the Division for Palestinian Rights, which falls organizationally under the General Assembly Affairs Division. A major objective of the subprogramme is to assist the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in promoting a solution to the question of Palestine based on the exercise by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights. The mandate of the Division, established in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/40 B of 2 December 1977, has been expanded over the years and was most recently reaffirmed by the Assembly in its resolution 51/24 of 4 December 1996.

2.103 During the biennium 1998-1999, the Division will continue to provide substantive and technical services to the Committee and assistance to the Chairman and other members in their representational functions; monitor developments through printed and electronic information sources and by maintaining a wide network of contacts; provide information to the members of the Committee on an ongoing basis; and organize the annual observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, including a Palestinian cultural exhibit, as mandated by the General Assembly.

2.104 Activities under the subprogramme will include rendering assistance to the Committee in promoting the effective implementation of the agreements reached between Israel and the PLO and in mobilizing international support for and assistance to the Palestinian people.

2.105 The subprogramme will aim to heighten awareness of all aspects of the question of Palestine by organizing forums to facilitate consideration of relevant issues and to promote dialogue among the parties concerned, Governments, United Nations bodies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and prominent personalities, including Palestinians and Israelis. In pursuance of these objectives, the Committee has decided to continue its programme of seminars, NGO symposia and international NGO meetings and to streamline and refocus it in the light of the evolving political situation in order to achieve maximum effectiveness. It is envisaged that during the biennium a total of 13 such meetings will be held, reflecting a reduction from prior bienniums namely, 2 consultations with NGO coordinating committees; 2 seminars on assistance to the Palestinian people; 2 seminars and/or NGO symposia for the European region; 2 NGO symposia for the North American region; 2 international NGO meetings; and 3 combined seminars and NGO symposia for Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia and the Pacific.

2.106 In implementation of the request of the Committee, the Division for Palestinian Rights will undertake an annual training programme for staff of the Palestinian Authority in the workings of the United Nations and other international organizations. It is envisaged that two persons would be invited each year to spend a period of three months at Headquarters during the regular session of the General Assembly.

2.107 The Division will continue to provide information on the question of Palestine through the preparation of studies and publications and will also continue to develop the United Nations computer-based Information System on the Question of Palestine (UNISPAL) in cooperation with relevant departments of the Secretariat, including the Department of Public Information, other United Nations organs, organizations, bodies and specialized agencies, as well as NGOs. The Committee attaches the highest priority to inclusion in the UNISPAL system of all significant United Nations documentation on the question of Palestine and the Middle East conflict dating back to 1947. In view of the volume of such documents, the Division would award outside contracts for electronic processing of those which cannot be handled by the Division's staff.

2.108 Lastly, the Division will continue to cooperate with all concerned United Nations offices and agencies in the implementation of this objective and to maintain contact and exchange information with NGOs interested in the question of Palestine.

Activities

2.109 During the biennium the following activities will be undertaken:

(a) *Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies*

(i) Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

a. Parliamentary documentation. Annual reports of the Committee to the General Assembly; conference room papers containing the draft programme of work (annual); letters from the Chairman to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council on urgent developments; substantive notes, background papers and draft statements for meetings of the Committee, Bureau and Working Group; and preparation of a chronology of developments relating to the question of Palestine based on regular monitoring of news media, the Internet and various publications (monthly);

b. Substantive servicing. Committee, Working Group and Bureau meetings (20, 2 and 25, respectively);

(ii) Other substantive servicing

a. Parliamentary documentation. Substantive notes, agendas, draft statements and draft final documents and reports for 13 intergovernmental seminars and NGO symposia and meetings held under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People;

b. Substantive servicing. Annual consultations with NGO coordinating committees in New York; seminars on assistance to the Palestinian people in Europe or the Middle East; and combined seminars and NGO symposia for Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia and the Pacific, including logistical arrangements (3);

(iii) Other services provided. Briefing notes, documentation and draft statements for the Secretary-General and other senior officials of the Department of Political Affairs and substantive replies to requests for contributions and assistance from other United Nations departments, offices, specialized agencies and others;

(b) *Other substantive activities*

(i) Recurrent publications. Monthly bulletin on United Nations and intergovernmental action relating to the question of Palestine; reviews of developments related to the Middle East peace process (12); annual compilation of General Assembly and Security Council resolutions relating to the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East; annual bulletin on the commemoration of the International Day of Solidarity; and final reports of seminars, NGO symposia and NGO meetings convened under the auspices of the Committee (11);

(ii) Non-recurrent publications. Studies and information notes (10);

(iii) Information materials and services, including in electronic form. Provision of information to the Committee, Member States, NGOs, experts and others on the question of Palestine and dissemination of the publications of the Division for Palestinian Rights; and ongoing maintenance of public replicas of UNISPAL; selection of documents and uploading in the Internet home page; and provision of information, advice and assistance to UNISPAL users within and outside the United Nations;

(iv) Exhibits, lectures. Organization of all aspects of the annual Palestinian cultural exhibit in connection with the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on 29 November at Headquarters, including film screenings; briefings to United Nations officials, visitors, NGOs and others;

(v) Special event. Annual commemoration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on 29 November at Headquarters and arrangements for parallel events at Geneva and Vienna;

(vi) Technical material. Substantive and technical development and operation of UNISPAL, including ongoing identification, processing and downloading of current United Nations system documents available in electronic format; identification, processing, electronic conversion and downloading of older documents available only in printed form; development and maintenance of related databases on NGOs, experts and non-United Nations documentation; and participation in efforts to modernize the land records of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine;

(c) *International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison*

(i) Consultations and liaison with approximately 1,000 NGOs accredited with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, including promotion of networking among NGOs through regular collection and dissemination of information on their activities; and identification of and outreach to other NGOs active in related fields;

(ii) Seminars and/or NGO symposia for the European region (2); NGO symposia for the North American region (1 at Headquarters; 1 in Canada); international NGO meetings, Europe or the Middle East (2);

(iii) Assistance to the Palestinian Authority through an annual training programme for staff of the Authority conducted by the Division for Palestinian Rights;

(iv) Consultations and liaison with various United Nations system agencies in making substantive preparations for seminars and NGO meetings, to expand the NGO network, to obtain and exchange computerized documents in connection with UNISPAL and to obtain information for inclusion in the monthly bulletin and in studies and reports prepared by the Division.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Posts

2.110 The resources of $2,589,700, reflecting negative growth of $156,200, include proposals for the redeployment of one General Service (Other level) post to programme support in order to strengthen the technical innovations programme of the Department and for abolition of one P-3 post not required for implementation of the programme of activities outlined in paragraph 2.109. Following these changes, the Division would consist of 15 posts.

Other staff costs

2.111 The estimated requirements of $93,600 would provide for temporary assistance during meetings organized by the Division for Palestinian Rights away from Headquarters that are not hosted by Governments ($25,000), temporary replacement of General Service staff during periods of maternity leave and extended sick leave ($58,000) and overtime required for work performed beyond normal established working hours, in particular during preparations for the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People ($10,600).

Consultants and experts

2.112 The estimated requirements of $30,100, reflecting an increase of $21,900, relate to consultancy services required for the preparation of studies and publications requested by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for which the required expertise is not available in the Secretariat and for expert assistance to develop UNISPAL further.

Travel

2.113 A provision of $1,175,100, which reflects an increase of $138,800, would cover:

(a) The cost of travel and subsistence for members of the Committee, experts and participants attending meetings organized by the Division ($815,500), including an increase of $52,700 in view of the level of activities envisaged. It is anticipated that five members of the Committee, including the Chairman, would travel in their official capacity to attend about 10 meetings away from Headquarters. A varying number of experts, depending on the meetings, would be invited to make formal presentations and to participate in panel discussions;

(b) The cost of travel of staff ($279,600), including an increase of $86,100, to provide substantive services for seminars, NGO symposia and meetings held away from Headquarters, and of staff who accompany delegations of the Committee, attend meetings and conferences on the question of Palestine and undertake planning missions for future meetings;

(c) The cost of travel and subsistence of staff of the Palestinian Authority attending the annual training programme in the Division ($80,000).

Contractual services

2.114 The provision of $65,300, reflecting growth of $51,800, would be utilized mostly for the substantive development of UNISPAL, requested most recently by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/24. Outside contractors would be required for the conversion into electronic format of thousands of pages of United Nations documents dating back to 1947, which currently exist only in printed form and are not easily accessible to users. Further, in its resolution 51/129, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General

to take all appropriate steps to preserve and modernize the existing records concerning Palestinian refugees' properties. In response to those resolutions, $50,300 would be required for the electronic scanning, proofreading and editing of such documents, which would require external data-processing services. Under the terms of General Assembly resolution 36/120 B of 10 December 1981, some publications of the Division are translated into languages other than the official languages of the United Nations. The Committee has requested that each year three publications be translated into three languages to be determined by it. Requirements of $5,000 are estimated in this connection. Other requirements of $10,000 under this heading would provide for printing of miscellaneous items required in relation to the programme of seminars, NGO symposia and international meetings organized by the Division.

General operating expenses

2.115 Regional seminars, NGO symposia and meetings are not as a rule hosted by Governments. Provisions are therefore made for the holding of meetings away from an established office ($131,700), including an increase of $13,200 to cover rental of space and, as necessary, rental of interpretation and office equipment, communications and other similar expenses. Other requirements under this heading relate to miscellaneous support services required on site during the holding of regional seminars, NGO symposia and meetings and expenditures arising during the annual Palestinian rights exhibit in New York under the auspices of the Committee ($30,300) and for maintenance of office automation equipment, communications and miscellaneous equipment for headquarters ($88,000).

Hospitality

2.116 Resources of $60,500 relate to receptions for local officials and all participants in the meetings hosted by the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People on the occasion of the seminars, symposia and meetings of NGOs organized by the Division.

Supplies and materials

2.117 Requirements of $12,000, reflecting a decrease of $8,100, are estimated for supplies and materials required on site for seminars, NGO symposia and meetings organized by the Division ($5,000) and for subscriptions to newspapers and periodicals and on-line services required for the monitoring of political and other relevant developments affecting the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people ($7,000).

Furniture and equipment

2.118 A provision of $57,500 would cover the continued development of UNISPAL ($40,300) and the replacement of office automation equipment ($17,200).

2. Disarmament

Table 2.30 **Summary by object of expenditure**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Object of expenditure	*1994-1995 expenditures*	*1996-1997 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*1998-1999 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Posts	8 453.5	8 544.7	(137.2)	(1.6)	8 407.5	340.1	8 747.6
Other staff costs	690.1	572.1	(238.7)	(41.7)	333.4	17.9	351.3
Consultants and experts	1 145.1	1 138.5	247.8	21.7	1 386.3	82.9	1 469.2
Travel	239.6	439.9	(47.5)	(10.7)	392.4	23.6	416.0
Contractual services	110.6	69.9	—	—	69.9	4.2	74.1
General operating expenses	155.4	168.7	(6.7)	(3.9)	162.0	9.8	171.8
Hospitality	10.0	6.0	6.0	100.0	12.0	0.8	12.8
Supplies and materials	32.5	66.9	(46.4)	(69.3)	20.5	1.2	21.7
Furniture and equipment	286.5	159.4	(89.9)	(56.3)	69.5	4.2	73.7
Grants and contributions	1 473.5	1 443.7	(67.7)	(4.6)	1 376.0	56.8	1 432.8
Total	**12 596.8**	**12 609.8**	**(380.3)**	**(3.0)**	**12 229.5**	**541.5**	**12 771.0**

(2) *Extrabudgetary resources*

1994-1995 expenditures	*1996-1997 estimates*	*Source of funds*	*1998-1999 estimates*
		(a) Services in support of:	
—	—	(i) Other United Nations organizations	—
	142.3	(ii) Extrabudgetary programmes	147.5
Total (a)	**142.3**		**147.5**
		(b) Substantive activities	
		Trust Fund for the United Nations	
189.4	339.9	Disarmament Information Programme	391.0
		Trust Fund for Public Awareness on	
260.7	416.4	Disarmament Issues	313.0
		Trust Fund for Global and Regional	
159.2	266.6	Disarmament Activities	309.0
		Trust Fund for Interest on the	
		Contribution to the United Nations	
—	—	Special Account	—
		Trust Fund for the United Nations Standing	
		Advisory Committee on Security Questions	
—	429.6	in Central Africa	561.0
Total (b)	**1 452.5**		**1 574.0**

	1994-1995 expenditures	1996-1997 estimates	Source of funds	1998-1999 estimates
			(c) Operational projects	
	125.0	109.0	Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa	125.8
	72.8	29.5	Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean	—
	13.5	303.2	Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific	349.0
	2 221.1	2 060.8	Trust Fund for the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research	2 060.8
Total (c)	**2 432.4**	**2 502.5**		**2 535.6**
Total (a), (b) and (c)	**3 041.7**	**4 097.3**		**4 257.1**
Total (1) and (2)	**15 638.5**	**16 707.1**		**17 028.1**

Table 2.31 **Post requirements**

Programme: Disarmament

	Established posts		*Temporary posts*					
	Regular budget		*Regular budget*		*Extrabudgetary resources*		*Total*	
	1996-1997	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*
Professional category and above								
D-2	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
D-1	3	3	—	—	—	—	3	3
P-5	11	7	—	—	—	—	11	7
P-4/3	10	11	—	—	—	—	10	11
P-2/1	3	3	—	—	—	—	3	3
Total	**28**	**25**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**28**	**25**
General Service category								
Principal level	4	3	—	—	—	—	4	3
Other levels	16	15	—	—	2	2	18	17
Total	**20**	**18**	**—**	**—**	**2**	**2**	**22**	**20**
Grand total	**48**	**43**	**—**	**—**	**2**	**2**	**50**	**45**

2.119 Activities of this programme falling under programme 26, Disarmament, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, will be implemented by the Centre for Disarmament Affairs of the Department of Political Affairs.

2.120 In the closing years of the twentieth century it is expected that the international community will intensify its search for new avenues of progress in the field of arms limitation and disarmament, thereby developing a disarmament agenda for the next century. Since the end of the cold war notable progress has been made in a number of important areas, in particular with regard to weapons of mass destruction. These developments have opened new prospects for achieving a more secure and stable world. They have also increased recognition of the essential role played by disarmament and arms limitation in strengthening

international peace and security and the need for their further integration into the broader international efforts to enhance peace and security.

2.121 The main focus during the biennium 1998-1999 will be on weapons of mass destruction, notably nuclear weapons. Their systematic and progressive reduction, with the ultimate goal of complete elimination, remains a priority task of the international community. At the same time, the disturbingly high number of conflicts in various subregions of the world has called attention to the destabilizing effects and the destructive power of conventional arms, especially of the uncontrolled flow and accumulation of small arms. The need to curb their proliferation and to promote confidence-building measures, openness and transparency in all spheres of the military activities of States at the global, regional and subregional levels is increasingly recognized.

2.122 In implementation of the overall objective of the programme, the Centre will provide organizational and substantive secretariat support to multilateral bodies entrusted with deliberation and negotiation on disarmament issues and to review conferences and other international meetings related to multilateral disarmament agreements.

2.123 Substantive services and organizational support provided to the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva and its subsidiary bodies to enable it to fulfil its role as the single multilateral negotiating forum of the international community in the field of disarmament are therefore of unique importance. The Conference is currently engaged in a comprehensive review of its agenda in order to tailor it to the new international political and security environment.

2.124 The promotion of regional disarmament efforts and initiatives as an essential component of regional peace and stability will also be undertaken, focusing on three different but interrelated areas. Firstly, upon request, the necessary support to subregional and regional organizations to translate globally agreed measures, guidelines and principles into the regional context and, conversely, to pursue region-oriented approaches that will complement global efforts to strengthen international peace and security will be provided. Secondly, the Centre will assist, as appropriate, initiatives of interested States, either individual or joint, aimed at increasing openness and transparency in military matters, promoting confidence-building and concluding arms limitation and disarmament agreements as a means of preventing new crises and conflicts or solidifying internal, subregional or regional conciliation of former adversaries. Lastly, regional conferences, meetings and seminars will be organized with a view to providing a forum for a high-level but informal exchange of ideas and initiatives as a means of finding common ground and identifying areas of possible future negotiations and agreements by interested States with regard to arms limitation and disarmament. The United Nations Disarmament Information Programme will serve as a tool for generating public understanding and support for the efforts of Governments to achieve regional solutions to regional problems. It is expected to broaden its scope in addressing a wider range of issues. Impartial and factual information on the United Nations disarmament efforts will be provided to Member States, parliamentarians, research and academic institutions and specialized non-governmental organizations. Training for young diplomats, in particular from developing countries, will also be provided through the Disarmament Fellowship Programme. Regional activities will to a large extent depend on the availability of voluntary contributions, however, as is evident from the proposal to terminate the Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, owing to the continuous lack of financial contributions. Activities were suspended in July 1996, as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General of 25 September 1996 (A/51/403).

2.125 Two regular ministerial meetings each biennium of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa are financed from the regular budget. Its programme of work for the biennium 1998-1999 is dependent on political decisions taken by its member States. Implementation of activities other than the two ministerial meetings in the Committee's work programme would bear on the availability of voluntary contributions.

2.126 The Centre will monitor and assess trends in the field of disarmament and international security in order to assist Member States in their search for agreement and to enable the Secretary-General to carry out the functions entrusted to him by the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant decisions of the General Assembly. Contributing to the building of confidence in military matters through, *inter alia*, the operation and maintenance of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and efforts to strengthen the

standardized reporting system of military expenditures, as may be decided by Member States, will be undertaken. Monitoring and assessing current and future trends in the field of disarmament and international security through the maintenance of a well-researched disarmament database would be another aspect of the work programme.

2.127 The Centre will continue to work closely with the four regional divisions of the Department of Political Affairs in contributing its expertise in practical disarmament measures to an integrated approach by the Department to its core task of rendering assistance to Member States in preventing, controlling and resolving conflicts.

Activities

2.128 During the biennium the following activities will be undertaken:

(a) *Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB/XB)*

(i) General Assembly

Parliamentary documentation. Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms (1998 and 1999) and special report to the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (1999); report of the Secretary-General on the relationship between disarmament and development (1998 and 1999); report of the Secretary-General on military expenditures (1998 and 1999); report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme (1998) and special report to the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (1999); and report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme (1998) and special report to the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (1999);

(ii) First Committee of the General Assembly (RB)

a. Parliamentary documentation. Reports of or notes by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the follow-up to and implementation of the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and other legislative bodies; reports relating to replies received from Member States (20, 1998 and 1999); reports of the Secretary-General as mandated by the General Assembly (50, 1998 and 1999); coordination and preparation of technical documents on reports submitted by other intergovernmental or inter-agency bodies in connection with the work of the First Committee (6, 1998 and 1999); documents of the First Committee during the sessions of the General Assembly (35, 1998 and 1999); and preparation of rapporteur's reports of the First Committee to the General Assembly on each agenda item (approximately 50, 1998 and 1999);

b. Substantive servicing. First Committee (70 meetings) and 10 consultations as necessary (1998 and 1999);

(iii) Fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament and its Preparatory Committee (RB)

a. Parliamentary documentation. Special reports and background documents, as may be required (20, 1998 and 1999);

b. Substantive servicing. Preparatory Committee (80 meetings, 1998 and 1999); and fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (120 meetings, 1999);

(iv) United Nations Disarmament Commission (RB)

a. Parliamentary documentation. Reports to the General Assembly (2), reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission to the plenary (8) and other relevant documents (89) (1998 and 1999); special report to the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (1999);

b. Substantive servicing. Organizational session (10 meetings), substantive session, including sessions of Commission's subsidiary bodies and consultation groups (70 meetings), and year-round consultations, as necessary (10) (1998 and 1999);

(v) Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean (RB)

a. Parliamentary documentation. Report to the General Assembly (1998 and 1999); and special report to the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (1999);

b. Substantive servicing. Substantive session (approximately 5 meetings, 1998 and 1999);

(vi) Conference on Disarmament (RB)

a. Parliamentary documentation. Annual report to the General Assembly, official documents (150) and verbatim records (60) (1998 and 1999) and special report to the fourth special special of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and other reports, as appropriate, in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure of the Conference (1999);

b. Substantive servicing. Plenary meetings of the Conference (60) and meetings of presidential consultations (20) (1998 and 1999);

(vii) Subsidiary bodies of the Conference (ad hoc committees and working groups, as required, to be established during each annual session) (RB)

a. Parliamentary documentation. Reports to the Conference (6) and working papers (120) (1998 and 1999);

b. Substantive servicing. Meetings of subsidiary bodies (186, 1998 and 1999);

(viii) Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters

a. Parliamentary documentation. Reports to the General Assembly on the Advisory Board and on the work of UNIDIR (1998 and 1999) and special reports on both subjects to the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (1999);

b. Substantive servicing. Four sessions (32 meetings, 1998 and 1999);

(ix) Ad hoc expert groups to assist the Secretary-General in the preparation of studies on arms limitation and disarmament issues (as mandated by the General Assembly, one group to update 1990 report on role of science and technology (resolution 51/39) and two groups on topics yet to be determined)

a. Parliamentary documentation. Report of ad hoc expert groups to the General Assembly, working papers (10) and conference room papers (10) (1998 and 1999);

b. Substantive servicing. Two sessions on science and technology (5 meetings per year); and six sessions on topics to be determined (50 meetings per year);

(x) Consultative group to revise the standardized military expenditure reporting instrument

a. Parliamentary documentation. Report of the group (1998 and 1999);

b. Substantive servicing. One session (6 meetings, 1998);

(xi) United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

a. Parliamentary documentation. Report to the General Assembly (1998 and 1999); and special report to the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (1999);

b. Substantive servicing. Four plenary sessions (1998 and 1999);

(xii) Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Seabed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof and the session of its Preparatory Committee (XB)

a. Parliamentary documentation. Background documents (4), report of the Preparatory Committee and final document (1998);

b. Substantive servicing. Preparatory Committee (10 meetings) and Review Conference (30 meetings) (1998);

(xiii) Preparatory Committee for the Review Conference in the year 2000 of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (XB)

a. Parliamentary documentation. Background papers on the implementation of the provisions of the Treaty (7), working papers (20), conference room papers (20) (1998 and 1999) and reports of the second session (1998) and of the third session (1999);

b. Substantive servicing. Second session of the Committee (20 plenary meetings and 10 meetings of subsidiary bodies, 1998); third session of the Committee (20 plenary meetings and 10 meetings of subsidiary bodies, 1999); and Bureau of the Committee (eight meetings, 1998 and 1999);

(xiv) Ad Hoc Group of States Parties mandated to draft measures to strengthen the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (XB)

a. Parliamentary documentation. Report of the Ad Hoc Group (1998 and 1999);

b. Substantive servicing. Five sessions of two weeks each (100 meetings, 1998 and 1999);

(xv) Special Conference of States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention in connection with a protocol on verification measures (XB)

a. Parliamentary documentation. Special report and background documents (8, 1998 and 1999); and final document (1999);

b. Substantive servicing. Preparatory Committee (20 meetings, 1998 and 1999); and Special Conference (20 meetings, 1999);

(xvi) Annual Conference of High Contracting Parties to Protocol II, as amended, to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (XB)

a. Parliamentary documentation. Annual report; and background documents (8, 1998 and 1999);

b. Substantive servicing. Preparatory Committee (10 meetings, 1998); and annual conferences (40 meetings, 1998 and 1999);

(xvii) World Conference on Light Weapons and Violence

a. Parliamentary documentation. Reports of the Preparatory Committee (2) and background documents (4) (1998); and report of the Conference and background documents (4) (1998);

b. Substantive servicing. Preparatory Committee (2 sessions, approximately 20 meetings, 1998); intersessional consultations of the Bureau (approximately 10 meetings, 1998); and World Conference and its subsidiary bodies (approximately 18 meetings, 1998);

(b) *Other substantive activities (RB/XB)*

(i) Maintenance and operation of the general disarmament information database (UNDIS), comprising the electronic collection, storage and retrieval of data and information on various aspects of armaments, arms limitation and disarmament and related international security developments;

(ii) Analytical writings; preparing political assessments, research papers and compilations; preparation of background material, statements and briefs for the Secretary-General;

(iii) Provision to the Secretary-General and the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, on a regular basis, of authoritative analysis and assessment on developments in the ongoing negotiations within the Conference on Disarmament;

(iv) Maintenance and operation of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, comprising data and information submitted annually by Governments;

(v) Monitoring the relationship between disarmament and development in the areas of demobilization of former combatants into civil society; destruction, disposal and buy-back of weapons; and reorientation or redeployment of resources to non-military sectors: substantive servicing of a one-day meeting of the interdepartmental task force (1998 and 1999);

(vi) Monitoring trends in military expenditures and contributing to the strengthening of the standardized reporting system;

(vii) Implementation of the Disarmament Information Programme;

Preparation and dissemination of information material

a. Recurrent publications (listed in order of priority) (RB/XB). *United Nations Disarmament Yearbook* (vol. 22, 1997, and vol. 23, 1998); *Disarmament: A Periodic Review by the United Nations* (vol. XXI, Nos. 1-3, and vol. XXII, Nos. 1-3); and *Newsletter*, the *African Peace Bulletin* (4 per year) (XB);

b. Non-recurrent publications (RB/XB). Ad hoc publications to respond to developments and requests as they occur (4-6 in total); publication of proceedings of NGO meetings arising out of special events (see below) to be reproduced under the auspices of the Programme (4-6 in total); and proceedings of regional meetings (2 per year) (XB);

(viii) Liaison with the depositaries of various multilateral disarmament agreements and monitoring the process of signature and ratification of those agreements;

(ix) Coordination with other organs/agencies of the United Nations system on follow-up to recommendations for further work with respect to study reports of ad hoc expert groups mandated by the General Assembly;

(x) Maintenance of cooperation with research institutes working in the field of arms limitation and disarmament and more specifically with UNIDIR;

(xi) Maintenance and updating of the disarmament reference library at Headquarters and the reference collection at Geneva for use by Member States, the substantive Secretariat, research institutions and the general public;

(xii) Technical material. Internet home page of the Centre for Disarmament Affairs;

(xiii) Special events. Panel discussions, symposia and meetings on current disarmament issues, prepared in cooperation with the NGO Committee on Disarmament, for the NGO, diplomatic and academic communities. The main activities are held during the spring session of the Disarmament Commission and in the autumn, during Disarmament Week. The number of these outputs will increase with the anticipated fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and the NPT Review Conference, in the year 2000;

(xiv) Responding to queries and maintaining continuous liaison with the diplomatic and academic communities, NGOs and the public; provision of information materials; and substantive input at seminars on arms limitation and disarmament and briefing on issues under negotiation in the Conference on Disarmament;

(xv) Report on regional activities to the General Assembly (1998 and 1999);

(xvi) Special report on regional activities to the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (1999);

(c) *International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison*

(i) Coordination with the Division of General Assembly Affairs, the Office of Legal Affairs and the Office of Conference and Support Services of the Secretariat, IAEA, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Preparatory Committee for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization, OAU, ASEAN, the South Pacific Forum, the African Commission on Nuclear Energy and the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean in connection with the implementation of decisions and recommendations of disarmament and international security resolutions of the General Assembly;

(ii) Liaison with intergovernmental agencies and non-governmental organizations active in the field of disarmament, with reference to the work of deliberative and negotiating bodies, review conferences and other international conferences and meetings;

(iii) Provision of expertise on arms limitation and disarmament issues to subsidiary bodies of the United Nations, specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations, including IAEA, in relation to illicit transfer of nuclear material, and the Working Group on Arms Control and Regional Security established within the context of the Middle East peace process;

(iv) Cooperation with OPCW in the implementation of provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention, including in cases of alleged use of chemical weapons and exchange of information, data and documents;

(v) Advice and assistance to Member States, upon request, in promoting their initiatives regarding regional confidence-building, arms limitation and disarmament activities;

(vi) Consultations with Member States on the short- and long-term activities to be carried out by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa;

(vii) Fund-raising activities through contacts with Member States, NGOs and foundations;

(viii) Information materials and services. Disseminating information material on global and regional approaches to disarmament and security to various regional constituencies; and maintaining and developing specialized databases and reference material for specialized regional constituencies (XB);

(ix) Special events (XB). Organization in different regions of local seminars, round tables and exhibition on the occasion of Disarmament Week and United Nations Day and the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (1998 and 1999);

(d) *Technical cooperation (RB/XB)*

Implementation of the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme

a. Group training. Training sessions for 25 fellows (one per year of nine week's duration in September/October) (mandated by the Final Document of the first special session of the developing countries devoted to disarmament, resolution S/10-2 and updated by resolution 48/76 C);

b. Maintenance and updating of training materials for fellows;

c. Regional meetings to explore ideas and initiatives conducive to promoting regional and global peace and security (2 per year) (XB);

d. Regional workshops on the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms (1 per year) (XB);

e. Regional workshop on peace and disarmament for journalists and editors within the region of Asia ad the Pacific (1998) (XB);

f. Subregional workshops on practical measures to stem and control illicit arms transfers (XB). Three-day workshop in the Caribbean region preceded by consultations with Member States from the subregion and the host country (1998); a three-day workshop in Central and East Africa preceded by consultations with Member States from the subregion and the host country (1999);

and a three-day workshop in South-West Asia preceded by consultations with Member States from the subregion and the host country (1999);

g. Other projects. Assistance to an informal North-East Asian regional dialogue through seminars in the field of disarmament and security (2 per year) (XB); assistance in the process of informal consultations among Central Asian Member States regarding the concept of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia (1 per year) (XB); and a study series on specific disarmament and security issues prevailing in the region of Asia and the Pacific region (2 per year) (XB).

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Posts

2.129 The staffing of the Centre for Disarmament Affairs would consist of 25 posts in the Professional category and above (1 D-2, 3 D-1, 7 P-5, 11 P-4/P-3 and 3 P-2) and 18 General Service (3 Principal and 15 Other level) established posts funded under the regular budget, located at New York and Geneva. As a result of the efforts to streamline the Centre and to improve the efficiency of its programme delivery, it is proposed that the three P-5 posts approved for the three regional centres at Kathmandu, Lomé and Lima and two General Service (one Principal and one Other level) posts in New York Headquarters be abolished. The three P-5 posts have not been filled since their approval, nor have voluntary contributions for the operations of the Centres been made as expected. One other P-5 Senior Officer post not required for the work programme is also proposed for abolition. The redeployment of one P-4 post from subprogramme 4, Security Council affairs, is also proposed, to enhance the Centre's activities relating to regional issues in Africa. The effect of the application of the standardized vacancy rates and the proposed inward redeployment of a P-4 post are offset in full by the abolition of five posts under this programme. In addition to those financed under the regular budget, two General Service (Other level) posts shown in the staffing table are provided under the Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme. Those posts carry out functions related to the production and dissemination of publications.

Other staff costs

2.130 Requirements of $333,400, reflecting a decrease of $238,700, are estimated for the following: (a) general temporary assistance, to cover six work/months at the P-5 level for preparation of background papers in connection with the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, and for substantive and secretarial support to the special session and its Preparatory Committee ($234,300); and (b) overtime requirements, in particular for support to the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission, the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, the Conference on Disarmament and its subsidiary bodies and various study groups ($99,100).

Consultants and experts

2.131 The proposed provision of $1,386,300 under this heading reflects an increase of $247,800 and would cover the following:

(a) Consultants required in connection with the preparation of studies and expert reports ($31,100);

(b) Ad hoc expert groups. Requirements in connection with the 22 experts of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters; 5 experts to update the 1990 report on the role of science and technology; 2 expert groups comprising 20 experts on topics to be determined; and travel and subsistence of 33 representatives and experts to the ministerial meetings of the Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa ($1,355,200).

Travel

2.132 The total provision proposed ($392,400), including a decrease of $47,500, would cover travel of staff pertaining to substantive servicing of the Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa; the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters; the disarmament fellowship programme; special and fact-finding missions related to arms limitation and disarmament and activities in cooperation with specialized agencies and regional organizations; travel of the Director in a representational capacity on behalf of the Secretary-General; and other travel of staff, in particular in connection with attendance at

disarmament seminars, workshops and regional conferences; and the implementation of disarmament studies.

Contractual services

2.133 The estimate of $69,900 relates to external printing in connection with the publications programme of the Centre.

General operating expenses

2.134 The provision of $162,000, reflecting a reduction of $6,700, would cover rental of premises ($12,000), rental and maintenance of office and data-processing equipment ($16,000), communications ($103,900) and miscellaneous support services ($30,100).

Hospitality

2.135 The proposed requirements of $12,000 include an increase of $6,000 in view of the official functions extended by the Centre for Disarmament Affairs at seminars and for the Disarmament Fellowship Programme.

Supplies and materials

2.136 The proposed provision of $20,500 would meet requirements for stationery and office supplies ($4,900) and purchase of library books and subscriptions to periodicals for the disarmament library ($15,600).

Furniture and equipment

2.137 The provision of $69,500 reflects a decrease of $89,900 relating to the acquisition in 1996-1997 of equipment, hardware, software and other related electronic data-processing equipment in connection with the operation of the United Nations Disarmament Information System and the Register of Conventional Arms. The provision would cover replacement of existing data-processing equipment, upgrading of the existing computer network, including the database on the Register and the general disarmament information database, and the purchase of two laptop computers and a fax machine.

Grants and contributions

2.138 The estimates of $1,376,000 relate to (a) provisions for the Disarmament Fellowship Programme ($950,000) consisting of lecturers' fees and travel amounting to $1,500, travel stipends and terminal allowance for 25 fellows, amounting to $925,000; and other requirements, including interpretation and production of training materials and books, amounting to $23,500; and (b) the subvention to UNIDIR ($426,000). The negative growth of $67,700 results from the reduction in the number of training workshops.

D. International Commission of Inquiry in Burundi

Table 2.32 **Summary by object of expenditure**
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	*1994-1995 expenditures*	*1996-1997 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*1998-1999 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Posts	—	178.2	10.4	(10.4)	(100.0)	—	—
Other staff costs	375.8	591.7	(591.7)	(100.0)	—	—	—
Consultants and experts	124.0	228.5	(228.5)	(100.0)	—	—	—
Travel	74.9	90.5	(90.5)	(100.0)	—	—	—
General operating expenses	142.7	184.0	(184.0)	(100.0)	—	—	—
Supplies and materials	7.6	11.2	(11.2)	(100.0)	—	—	—
Furniture and equipment	75.0	21.1	(21.1)	(100.0)	—	—	—
Total	**978.2**	**1 137.4**	**(1 137.4)**	**(100.0)**	**—**	**—**	**—**

(2) *Extrabudgetary resources*

1994-1995 expenditures	*1996-1997 estimates*	*Object of expenditure*	*1998-1999 estimates*
—	477.0	Consultants and experts	—
—	424.6	Travel	—
—	**901.6**		**—**
978.2	**2 039.0**		**—**

2.139 Upon establishment of the International Commission of Inquiry in Burundi, it was estimated from its mandate that provisions would be required for the six-month period from 1 October 1995 to 31 March 1996. The Commission completed its work in June 1996. During implementation of its mandate, its activities were supplemented by the Trust Fund for the Commission of Inquiry in Burundi established by the Secretary-General as indicated in table 2.32.

E. Programme support

Table 2.33 **Summary by object of expenditure**
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	*1994-1995 expenditures*	*1996-1997 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*1998-1999 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Posts	2 814.4	2 069.0	163.1	7.8	2 232.1	140.8	2 372.9
Other staff costs	280.8	138.1	(3.4)	(2.4)	134.7	8.0	142.7
Contractual services	6.2	116.5	191.1	164.0	307.6	18.2	325.8
General operating expenses	812.0	471.8	489.7	103.7	961.5	57.7	1 019.2
Hospitality	0.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Supplies and materials	191.2	79.0	76.7	97.0	155.7	9.3	165.0
Furniture and equipment	1 030.8	317.7	190.9	60.0	508.6	30.4	539.0
Total	**5 135.7**	**3 192.1**	**1 108.1**	**34.7**	**4 300.2**	**264.4**	**4 564.6**

Table 2.34 **Post requirements**

Programme support

	Established posts		*Temporary posts*					
	Regular budget		*Regular budget*		*Extrabudgetary resources*		*Total*	
	1996-1997	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*
Professional category and above								
P-5	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
P-4/3	2	2	—	—	—	—	2	2
P-2/1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
Total	**4**	**4**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**4**	**4**
General Service category								
Principal level	3	3	—	—	—	—	3	3
Other levels	7	9	—	—	—	—	7	9
Total	**10**	**12**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**10**	**12**
Grand total	**14**	**16**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**14**	**16**

2.140 The Executive Office provides administrative, managerial and programme support necessary for the implementation of mandated activities of the Department. It assists the Under-Secretary-General in the preparation of the medium-term plan, the preparation and monitoring of the programme budget, financial management of trust funds and extrabudgetary resources, relevant support services for the efficient utilization of human resources and the planning, control and coordination of requirements related to general office administration.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Posts

2.141 The continuation of the current staffing of the Executive Office proposed for the biennium 1998-1999 is shown in table 2.34. In addition, two General Service (Other level) posts are proposed for redeployment from subprogrammes 3, Electoral assistance, and 7, Question of Palestine, in order to strengthen the Department's technological innovations programme.

Other staff costs

2.142 Other staff costs relate to the following:

(a) General temporary assistance ($64,300), including an increase of $11,800, to provide for the hiring of temporary staff to replace staff on sick leave and maternity leave or during periods of peak workload;

(b) Overtime ($70,400), reflecting a decrease of $15,200, to cover servicing requirements for the Department during periods of peak workload.

Contractual services

2.143 A provision of $307,600, reflecting an increase of $191,100, would cover the external printing requirements of the Department ($16,100) and requirements related to commercial information database services, which provide access to world events ($291,500). The increase of $191,100 is attributable to increased usage.

General operating expenses

2.144 A provision of $961,500, reflecting an increase of $489,700, is requested. The growth relates almost entirely to the redeployment of communications resources from the various subprogrammes under the

Department, excluding subprogramme 7, Question of Palestine, and the programme on disarmament. The breakdown is as follows: (a) rental and maintenance of data-processing equipment ($31,200); (b) communications requirements, hereafter centrally provided for under this subsection ($579,400); (c) maintenance of office automation equipment ($300,700); and (d) provision for miscellaneous services that may arise in connection with the implementation of the programme activities of the Department ($50,200).

Supplies and materials

2.145 The estimated requirements ($155,700) relate to the cost of data-processing, facsimile and other office supplies ($95,300) and subscriptions to newspapers, periodicals, journals and reference and other materials ($60,400).

Furniture and equipment

2.146 The provision of $508,600 would cover the cost of the replacement of the Department's office automation equipment in line with the policy for replacement of equipment. The requirements would cover (a) acquisition of office automation equipment, including facsimile machines, shredders, laptop and personal computers and related software ($167,400); and (b) replacement of office automation equipment ($341,200). The increase of $190,900 reflects the redeployment of resources related to the replacement of office automation equipment from other areas of the Department in order to consolidate resources under this heading to the extent possible.